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ABSTRACT

An in-depth examination of Henry County and the Blue Ridge Regional Library in Virginia was conducted to assess the effectiveness, needs, and objectives of the library. Included are a brief history of Henry County, its physical, social, and economic characteristics and projections, and an evaluation of district census data. A detailed description of the library's history, facilities, services, financial resources, and collections is also presented, followed by conclusions and recommendations. These include more emphasis on public relations with community organizations; an increased use of media for senior citizens of low educational achievement; increased bookmobile service; continual reassessment of acquisitions policy to achieve balance in the collection according to educational and economic background of the population; and the need for a larger headquarters facility. Numerous maps, charts, and tables are integrated throughout the report. (Author/MBR)

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henry county and the public library

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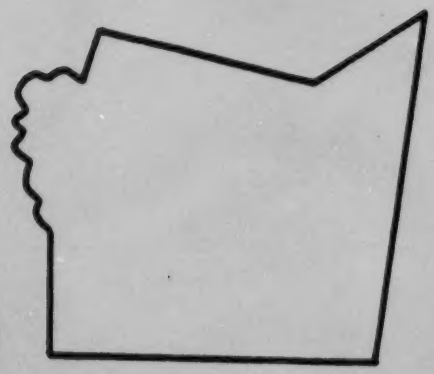

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introduction

INTRODUCTION

The idea for a community analysis was spawned when two staff members from the Blue Ridge Regional Library accepted the invitation extended by the Virginia State Library to attend an institute in Richmond in the fall of 1977. Dr. Roger Greer and Martha L. Hale of the University of Denver's Graduate School of Librarianship, founders of the Community Analysis Research Institute, had developed concepts and materials necessary for dissecting a community and were willing to impart their information to librarians in need of community surveys. This course, sponsored by the Virginia State Library with the use of Library Services and Construction Act funds, paved the way for an indepth examination of Henry County and the Blue Ridge Regional Library. A number of reasons justifying a self-study had long since surfaced in the form of concerns for increased library usage by Henry County citizens. These concerns were translated into the following objectives.

1. To identify pockets of unserved population and to ascertain if these people would be receptive to library service.

2. To identify characteristics of senior citizens in Henry County and to make recommendations for improving library service to this citizen group.

3. To make recommendations in order to increase overall citizen awareness of library service culminating in community acceptance of the library as a more vital force in the continuing education of the county.

4. To project population growth patterns for planning future library service and locating a prospective headquarters building.

5. To determine the feasibility for expanded library service in the Ridgeway-Horsepasture area.

INTRODUCTION Con't.

As the data was gathered and tabulated, trends and awareness did, indeed, emerge. A number of individuals and agencies have assisted us, and we are very much indebted to them all for their time, ccoperation, and encouragement. Among those to whom we extend special appreciation are: Dr. O. Lawrence Burnette, Jr., and the staff of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission, The Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce, Darlene Van Dyke, Henry County CETA employee, and the Blue Ridge Regional Library Staff.

Betty M. Ragsdale, Library Director
Carl DeHart, Library Assistant

RIDE AROUND

In conducting a survey of the county, one of our first priorities was a physical inspection tour of the entire area involved. Since Henry County contains nearly two hundred-forty thousand acres, any attempt to cover the area in only one trip was impossible. In all, a total of five lenghty tours was necessary in order to do the job satisfactorily.

Our purpose for this tour or ride around as we called it was well-defined. We were looking for both natural and man-made barriers affecting access to library service, population centers, types and conditions of housing patterns, road conditions and any developments which would have a direct bearing on future library service.

We first went into the northwestern section of the county, that area which encompasses the Blackberry and Reed Creek Magisterial Districts. This area is criss-crossed with primary and secondary roads and except for the industrial towns of Bassett and Stanleytown and some small housing developments,the housing was scattered with few heavy concentrations of population. The Smith River appeared to be the only natural boundary except the obvious one of hilly terrain. Though our tours all took place in the winter,we were impressed with the beauty of scenery in every area of the county. Road conditions were poor in this area as well as in all portions of the county because of the unusually severe weather conditions, but the new Route 220 by-pass in the Bassett Forks area is a vast improvement.

The central and northeastern sections of the county which compose the Martinsville and part of the Iriswood Magisterial Districts are a study in contrasts, with the heavily commerical and congested housing developments of Collinsville offset by the completely wild and undeveloped areas near Turkeycock Mountain. Because of the terrain and the lack of access to the latter areas it seems likely that this will be among the last sections of the county to develop in any way.

On our tour of the southeastern section of the county which falls mostly in the Iriswood Magisterial District few areas of concentrated population were noted except for Laurel Park, Chatmoss and several other smaller developments. Considerable expansion of that area had been anticipated with the advent of the proposed Sugartree Amusement Park, but after those plans were abandoned, little expansion has been noted beyond the norm.

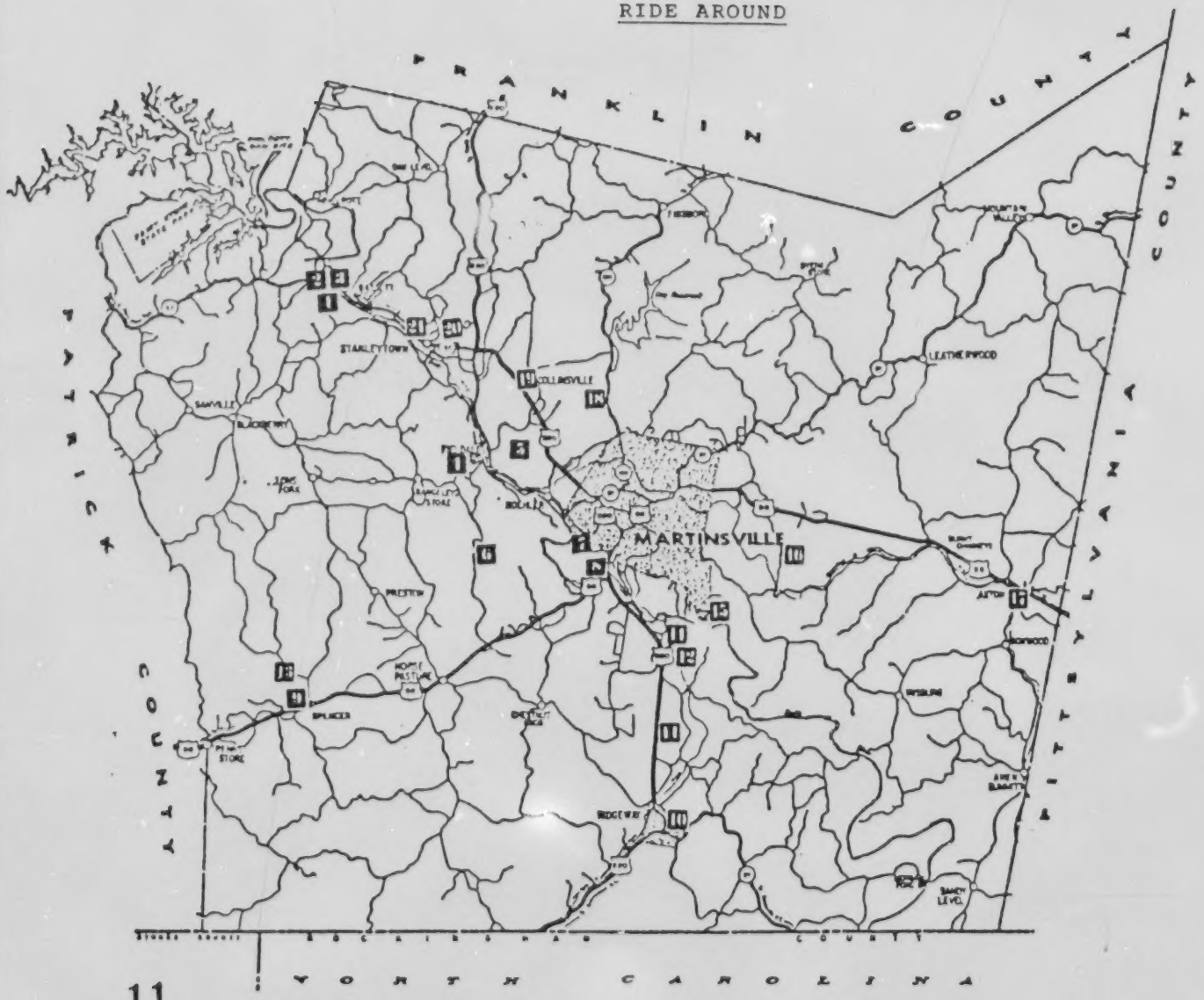
In the southern area of the county, most of which falls in the Ridgeway District, there are several areas of concentrated population, most notably the Marrowbone, Sheffield Terrace, and Shannon Hills developments, as well as the area around the Town of Ridgeway proper. That this expansion appears likely to continue

may be attributed to the new by-pass and the high school to be built in that area. Commerical development continues to burgeon in that area, perhaps chiefly for the same reason. A further factor affecting this portion of the county is the location of the Industrial Park, and this area will be still further affected by the new Miller Brewing Company plant just over the border in North Carolina.

In the southwestern section of the county, most of which is in the Horsepasture Magisterial District, considerable development seems to be in the offing along Route 58 and in the Carver Road and Preston Road areas. Most of this development is in housing concentrations, and patterns of heavy population seem to be emerging. The new by-pass which intersects Route 58 at the Grassy Creek section is causing some traffic congestion, but this appears likely to be alleviated once the by-pass is completed and Route 58 is four-laned as proposed. As in all areas of the county there is an abundance of sub-standard housing, but great improvements are already in progress.

Overall, both primary and secondary roads throughout the county were found to be in generally poor condition because of two severe winters in succession, but many improvements are being made which will allow better access to most areas. Present bookmobile stops seem, on balance, to be well arranged for maximum coverage of the county, but an effort toward fewer stops for longer periods seems indicated. The most encouraging sign and perhaps the highlight of the tour was the general friendliness and attitude of acceptance of the library which we encountered in all areas surveyed. Increased library service seems to be desired, and cooperation of local citizens appears to be forthcoming in any future expansion of the library system. The county tour was certainly one of the most enjoyable segments of our survey and in many ways has provided useful information that will aid us greatly toward reaching satisfactory conclusions.

RIDE AROUND



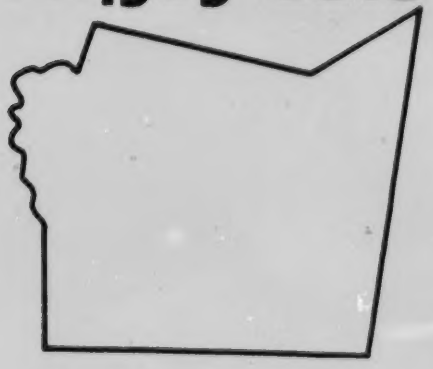
HENRY COUNTY, VA.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Bassett High School
2. Bassett Public Library
3. Bassett Post Office
4. Fieldale Post Office
5. Fieldale-Collinsville High School
6. George Washington Carver High School
7. Lynwood Country Club
8. City Hydroelectric Plant
9. Spencer Post Office
10. Ridgeway Post Office
11. Drewry Mason High School
12. Martinsville Speedway
13. Blue Ridge Airport
14. Martinsville Industrial Park
15. Forest Park Country Club
16. Chatmoss Country Club
17. Axton Post Office
18. Beaver Hills Country Club
19. Collinsville Post Office
20. Bassett Country Club
21. Stanleytown Post Office

county history

related census data



HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHY OF HENRY COUNTY

Although the origins of Henry County stem from a much earlier time, most of the recorded history dates from the Eighteenth Century when the General Assembly authorized the construction of a line of forts to be built along the frontier in 1756. One of these was named Fort Trial, which is in the proximity of present-day Martinsville, in what was then the western section of Pittsylvania County, although the precise location has never been established. In 1777 Henry County was formed from Pittsylvania County and named for Patrick Henry, a former Governor of Virginia. Established as a town in 1791 and named after General Joseph Martin, a resident of Henry County and Revolutionary War General, Martinsville became the county seat in 1793. Although Martinsville became an independent city in 1928, Henry County and Martinsville maintain a close relationship in many respects. There is still interdependence between the two areas economically and socially, although for the past two decades the county has experienced rapid commerical, residential and industrial growth, making the county more independent from the city.

Problems have naturally arisen from the rapidly expanding economy. Traffic congestion has developed along the major highways which are lined with commerical buildings, and water facilities and waste disposal systems have proved to be inadequate.

Industrialization has increased, and the county has become known as the world's largest manufacturer of wood furniture and pre-built homes. The world's largest nylon plant is located in the county and so is the nation's only plant which dyes mylar. The county's industries are also well known for their textile products including a wide variety of knit wear, towels, and toweling.

Although Henry County still remains a tobacco sales center, the agricultural economy of the county has declined. With the decrease in agricultural activities continuing, it is indicated that the already large portion of urban land will continue to increase. Henry County has a larger portion of its land in urban uses than most counties in Virginia. Tobacco is the leading agricultural crop with limited commercial and dairy operations located mostly in the outer sections of the county away from the urbanized center. The major portion of the land is forest land which provides valuable timber resources, retards erosion, and preserves water resources. The vacant land found around the urban centers is important for future growth of businesses and dwellings. Open space areas in the county also offer the potential for varied recreational development as well as for family housing. Concentrated in the Collinsville, Bassett-Stanleytown, and Ridgeway areas are the major commercial, retail, and service facilities. Particularly heavy commercial development is found in the Collinsville strip.

Magisterial districts were redrawn and renamed in 1967 to adjust to major shifts in population within the county. There are six magisterial districts in Henry County. The population is roughly the same in each district. One-third of the county consists of Reed Creek, Blackberry, and Martinsville Districts in the north and northwest. About one-half of the county's population is in these three districts. Horsepasture in the southwest, Ridgeway in the south, and Iriswood in the east have about two-thirds of the county's land but only slightly more than one-half of the county's total population. (See map delineating Magisterial Districts in the next section.)

Four major residential concentrations account for further population distribution. They are the Town of Ridgeway and Route 220 north and south of Martinsville, the northwest quarter of the county where furniture factories of Stanleytown and Bassett have attracted people, the area along Route 108 north of Martinsville and the Route 58 east area.

Industrial growth has been the major cause of an increase in population from 1940 to 1970 in Henry County. Most of Henry County's industrial growth resulted from the construction of Bassett Walker Knitting Company, Incorporated; Fieldcrest Mills, Martin Processing Company, Incorporated; Virginia Glass Products Corporation, Southeast Container Corporation; and the expansion of E. I. DePont De Nemours Company.

Since industries usually serve as the nucleus for ubran development, the traditional "mill town" developments have occurred in Bassett, Stanleytown, and Fieldale whose source of water supply attracted such industries as did the same river in the Horsepasture District attract DuPont. The county's industrial development is concentrated in its center as is the population. The major land uses of Henry County are residential, commerical/business, industrial, and recreational or open space. These areas should have the greatest influence on the future development of Henry County. Characteristics of these areas will be discussed in the remainder of this report.

GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS

Located in the upper Piedmont Plateau, Henry County's topography varies from gentle to severe slopes with flat land along the river and stream bottom lands. Altitudes range from 600 to 1,000 feet with peaks attaining 1,400 feet.

J. P. A. Hill, a resident of Henry County, writing in 1925, described the locale as follows:

> Henry County is in piedmont Virginia, bordering on the North Carolina line and lies south of the 37th parallel of latitude, and just east of the 80th degree of longitude. It is hilly or rolling with plains and bottom land, each in great plenty and variety. Two peaks, the Nance Mountain and Chestnut Knob, are greater than the hills and from the summit of the latter, a beautiful view of the five largest valleys of Smith and Mayo Rivers, Marrowbone, Leatherwood and Horsepasture Creeks, as well as the other chief towns and most noted residences, is the delight of every tourist here and on each it leaves everlasting memories.

This attractiveness of the area has not disappeared as witnessed in 1978 by another enthusiastic observer, Carl DeHart of the Blue Ridge Regional Library Staff:

> Henry County is almost ideally situated with many acres of suitable land for any conceivable purpose and a scenic backdrop provided by the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It has more than its share of Virginia's industry, and its fertile fields and valleys offer ample room for agriculture of almost any nature. Originally peopled by the Algonquin Indians, the area still furnishes arrowheads and artifacts enough to gratify the Sunday hiker and the amateur archeologist. Its atmosphere is still largely that of the small community, but it is located almost exactly between the large cities of Roanoke and Greensboro in North Carolina which

makes it easy to reach a large commercial center in an hour's leisurely drive. Its development has been gradual for the most part and few areas in the state offer better circumstances for a pleasant life. Those who visit find a delightful, mild climate of moderate changes which ushers in each of the four seasons.

There is a good highway system serving the county. U. S. Route 220, a four-lane dual highway going north-south connects the major aforementioned cities of Roanoke, Virginia and Greensboro, North Carolina. Route 220 also connects with Interstate Highway 81 about fifty miles to the north. U. S. Route 58 to the east of Martinsville is a four-lane highway leading to Danville and the major eastern cities of Virginia. To the west Route 58 travels to Patrick County and Southwestern Virginia. Recently a four-lane by-pass of Martinsville was completed for travellers on Route 220 north and south. According to a spokesman for the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, there has been no decline in the Collinsville business economy because of the by-pass. A survey made before the construction of the by-pass ascertained that only 19% of the traffic was "through" traffic. Businesses have noticed no ill effects from the by-pass.

Route 57, a two-lane highway, extends northeast to Chatham. This area and Route 58 east are expected to develop more heavily in the future.

Flowing in a southeasterly direction through the middle of the county is the Smith River which drains approximately 75% of the county's three hundred eighty-five square miles. In 1954 Philpott Dam was built across the Smith River forming the two thousand two hundred acre Philpott Reservoir in the northwestern corner of the county. This reservoir provides many forms of land and water recreation. The western portions of the county are drained by the Mayo River while the north and south sections are drained by tributaries of the Dan and Pigg Rivers.

Because of mild winters, hot humid summers and adequate rainfall in the summer months, Henry County has a long growing season of about two hundred eleven days. The average annual precipitation is forty-three inches. Snowfall normally measures eight to ten inches annually. Temperatures average from forty degrees in January to seventy-six degrees in July. These characteristics have in the past, provided conditions conducive to agriculture.

EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS

In Henry County there are nineteen elementary schools and five secondary schools which emphasize industrial training with industrial cooperative, training programs designed to prepare the students for local occupations. There is one private school(grades one through twelve),the Carlisle School, which primarily offers a college preparatory program. Formed from the Patrick Henry Branch of the University of Virginia in 1971, the Patrick Henry Community College with an enrollment of six to eight hundred is the county's only institution of higher learning. The county school system offers a program in continuing education for adults. The college also offers night classes in practical, technical, and academic subjects. The MARC Workshop is a school for handicapped children; and there is the W. C. Ham Learning Center, a rehabilitative facility for the mentally retarded. There are nursery and day care centers in many of the churches.

There has been a decline in the elementary school enrollment from 1970-1975 according to the West Piedmont Planning District Commission report in 1976.

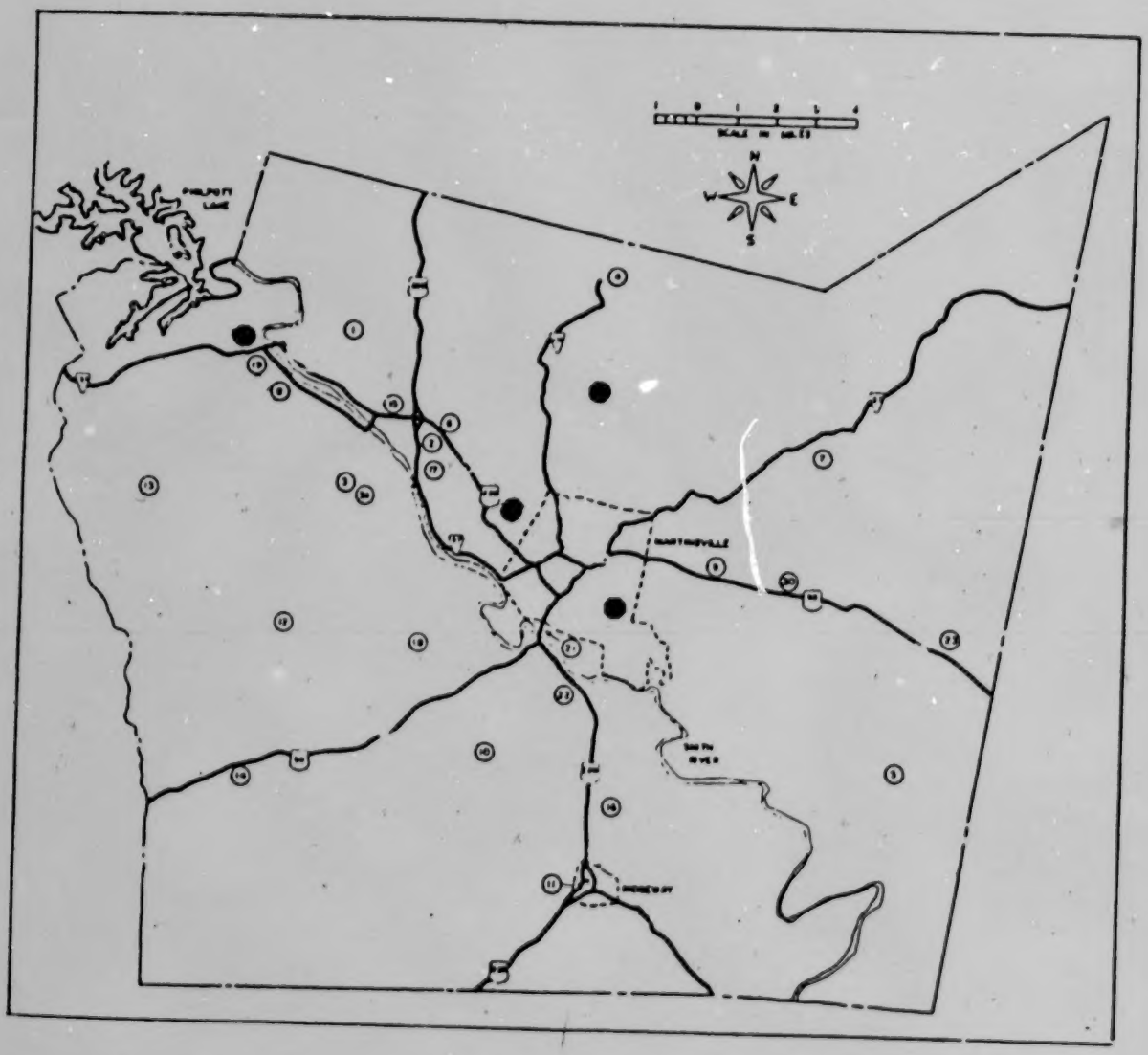
From kindergarten through senior high school there was an overall increase of 587 students. This compares with an overall decrease of 582 pupils in the Martinsville city schools for the same period. There has been an abrupt decline in Henry County of the male and female population in the five to twenty-four year age group. The overall educational level of the county is very low with 67.4% of the population twenty-five years of age and over who are not high school graduates. According to the projections of the Henry County School Board, the school population is expected to decrease as follows:

1977-1978	1978-1979	1979-1780	1980-1981
13,007	12,607	12,157	11,907

Other than the Blue Ridge Regional Library there are two additional libraries serving Henry County citizens: the Bassett Public Library housing about ten thousand volumes, specializing in historical and genealogical data of Henry County, and supported financially by private funds and an annual appropriation from Henry County and the Patrick Henry Community College Library

with approximately 25,000 volumes. (See map on following page for location of libraries.) As indicated on the map, there are library facilities, although limited, in the north, northwest and center of the county, but none in the south or southeastern sections. This omission would tend to support the feasibility of expanding library service in that area if the size of the population and projected use estimates indicate a need.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES



Schools: white circles
Libraries: black circles

ECONOMICS *

EMPLOYMENT

With the existing economic base there is a good potential for additional expansion in the supporting or service sector because of increased basic employment in the manufacturing area, and specialized services have been absent in the county. With the expansion of manufactureing industries, there is an indication that the supporting services will decrease with banking, utilities, and construction work dominating. The county probably will maintain its manufacturing base, concentrating on furniture, textile, paper and chemical industries.

RESOURCES

Henry County has had adequate resources for economic growth in the past, and the Route 220 by-pass should strongly influence future industrial development. Although the supply of electricity is diminishing, water and timber resources are available. Skilled and well-educated young adults migrate from the county to seek better paying jobs than are offered by the low and medium wages of the traditional Southern industries of paper, furniture, and textiles. The "lost" labor force could be utilized with more attractive job offerings.

INCOME

The county's income has grown at a slower rate since 1950 than has the income for the state as a whole. This may indicate that there is little gain from increased purchasing power in the county, however, there is a large number of commuters who work in Henry County but live elsewhere so their presence in industry tends to present a somewhat distorted picture of total area employment.

SALES

There has been a signigicant increase in per capita sales in Henry County. It is anticipated that the sales figure will continue to increase appreciably in the future. Industries are concentrared in the industrial park area adjacent to Route 220 south of Martinsville. There is vacant land in this area which should lead to further industrial development. This is a factor in favor of increasing library services in the southern sector of the county.

ECONOMICS (Con't.)

Industries that have discharged their wastes into the Smith River have caused serious pollution problems and have affected downstream water supplies. Decreasing ground water supplies will necessitate industries locating near public water supplies.

HOUSING SITUATION.

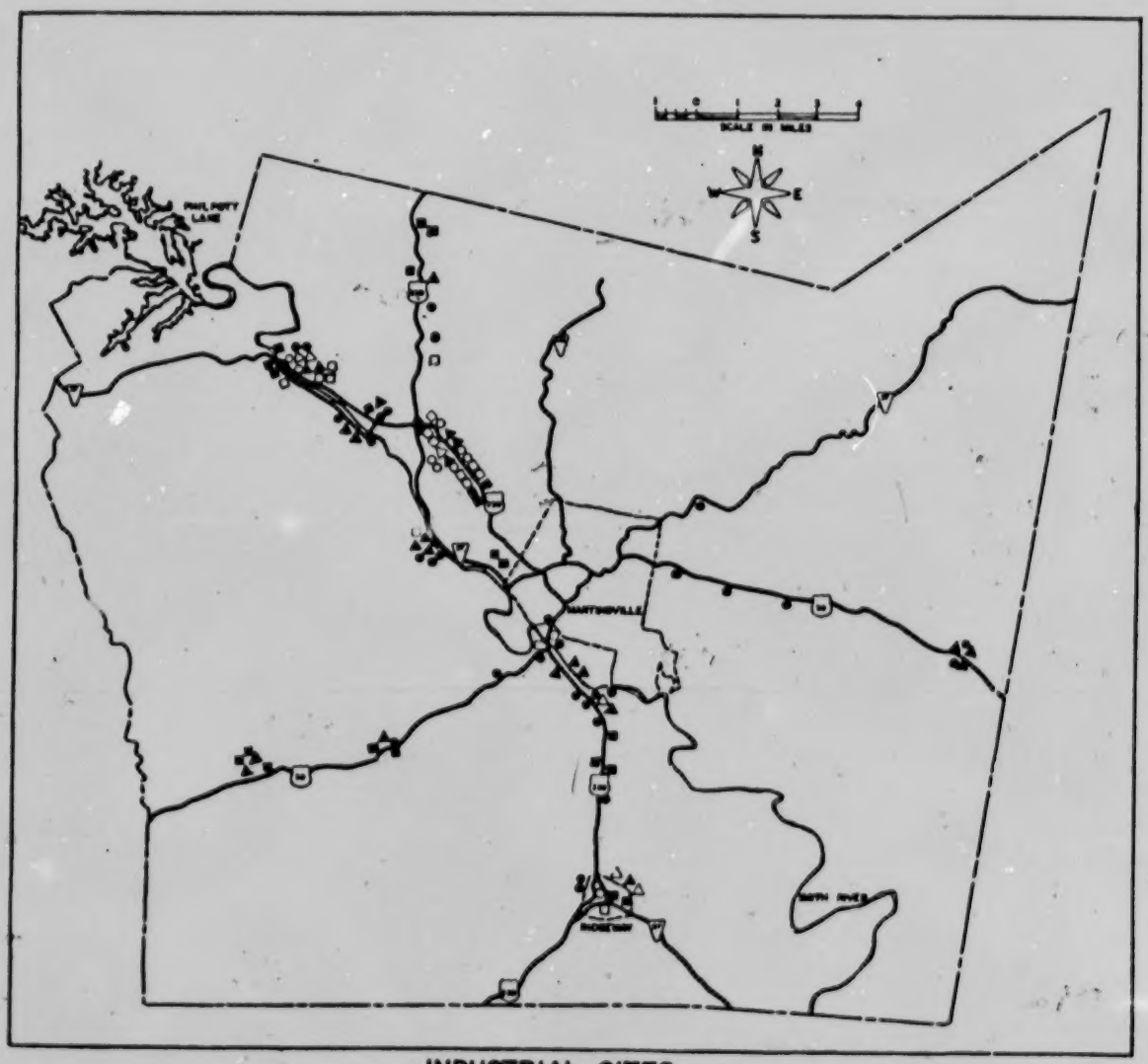
Of 14,717 occupied housing units in Henry County, 19.9% are substandard. About one-half of the substandard units are Negro occupied. Approximately 35% of the housing in Bassett, many built by Bassett industries for their employers is now considered to be substandard. A shortage of housing is increased as these homes are vacated, demolished and not replaced.

In addition to substandard housing, another major problem is once-crowded housing where a dwelling houses more than one person per room.

To alleviate these problems over 1300 housing units now need replacement or repair. With relation to population growth, the county should construct about 5700 new housing units by 1980. The lack of housing in the area today is purported to be a major determent in attracting new industry to the area.

*Much of the information used in this section on the various aspects of Henry County--demography, industry, parks and recreation, economics, housing, and education was taken from the West Piedmont Planning District Commission's various studies.

HENRY COUNTY INDUSTRIAL SITES



INDUSTRIAL SITES

- ▲ SINGLE INDUSTRY
- △ FIVE INDUSTRIES
- ● SINGLE SERVICE INDUSTRY
- ○ FIVE SERVICE INDUSTRIES
- ■ SINGLE COMMERCIAL / BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT
- □ FIVE COMMERCIAL / BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

Industries in Henry County

Industry	Location	Product
Wilson Quarries	Highway 220 South	Crushed & Broken Stone
Martinsville Stone Corp.	Fieldale	Crushed & Broken Stone
Fieldcrest Mills, Inc.	Fieldale	Broad Woven Fabrics
Bassett-Walker Knitting Co.	Bassett	Knitted Outwear
Martin Processing Co., Inc.	Whitby Acres	Finished Broad Woven Fabrics
Jack R. Foley	Ridgeway	Logging Camp & Contractor
Morris Brothers	Ridgeway	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Brinegar Brothers	Spencer	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Frank E. Joyce	Collinsville	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Marvin E. Kendall	Axton	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Herbert M. Kendall	Axton	Saw and/or Planing Mill
H. R. Bower	Bassett	Saw and/or Planing Mill
James A. Dillon	Bassett	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Doyle Lumber Co.	Horsepasture	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Anthony Bros. Lumber & Supply Co., Inc.	Bassett	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Roy Lewis	Bassett	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Robert Millner	Ridgeway	Saw and/or Planing Mill
W. B. Perry & J. A. Joyce	Spencer	Saw and/or Planing Mill
L. Joyce & Son	Bassett	Saw and/or Planing Mill
Henry Co. Plywood Corp.	Ridgeway	Veneer & Plywood
National Homes Corp.	Collinsville	Prefab. Buildings & Structures
Henry Co. Pallet & Box Co.	Ridgeway	Wood Products (Boxes)
Gravely Furniture Co., Inc.	Ridgeway	Household Furniture
Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc.	Bassett	Household Furniture
The Mead Corp. (Stanley Furniture)	Stanleytown	Household Furniture
Jessup Furniture Corp.	Collinsville	Household Furniture
Sheppard Furniture Co.	Ridgeway	Household Furniture
Nesters Cabinet Shop	Collinsville	Household Furniture
Brown Products, Inc.	Axton	Paperboard Products
Old Dominion Box Co., Inc.	Martinsville Industrial Park	Set-Up Paperboard Boxes
Continental Can Co., Inc.	Martinsville Industrial Park	Corrogated Boxes
Southeast Container Corp.	Martinsville Industrial Park	Corrogated Boxes

Industries in Henry County (Continued)

Industry	Location	Product
Reynolds Container Corp., NEW	Collinsville	Corrogated Boxes
Innerpak Corp.	Martinsville Industrial Park	Corrogated Boxes
Fibre Container Co., Inc.	New Danville Rd.	Corrogated Boxes
Bassett Printing Corp.	Bassett	Publishing & Printing
Collinsville Printing Co., Inc.	Collinsville	Commercial Printing
E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.	Henry County, near Martinsville	Synthetic Fibers
Dominion L-O-F, Inc.	Bassett	Plastics
Bassett Mirror Co., Inc.	Bassett	Mirrors
Virginia Glass Products Corp.	Highway 220 South	Glass Products
Fieldale Cement Products	Fieldale	Concrete Products
Owens Window Corp.	Roanoke Road	Windows
West Window Corp.	Martinsville Industrial Park	Windows
Steel of Va., Inc.	New Danville Rd.	Structural Steel
Virginia Welding & Fabricators, Inc.	Bassett	Elevators & Moving Stairways
Virginia Blower Co.	Collinsville	Blower, Exhaust, & Ventilator Fans
Koger & Wade Mfg. Corp.	Highway 220 South	Blower, Exhaust, & Ventilator Fans
Gindy Mgf. Corp.	Collinsville	Truck Trailers
Bassett-Walker Knitting	Highway 220 South	Knitted Outwear
American Furniture	Red Level	Furniture

RECREATION AND PARKS.

Realizing the vital role played by recreation in the development of an individual, the citizens of Henry county utilize the recreational facilities in both the county and city of Martinsville. Facilities available are movie theatres, a community theater, gymnasiums, tennis courts, picnic shelters, one public golf course, four private golf and country clubs, parks and lakes, and the Martinsville Speedway. Annual county fairs and horse shows are popular events. There are numerous clubs and organizations with a family YMCA in Martinsville, and recreation centers in Fieldale, Stanleytown, Collinsville, and two at Bassett.

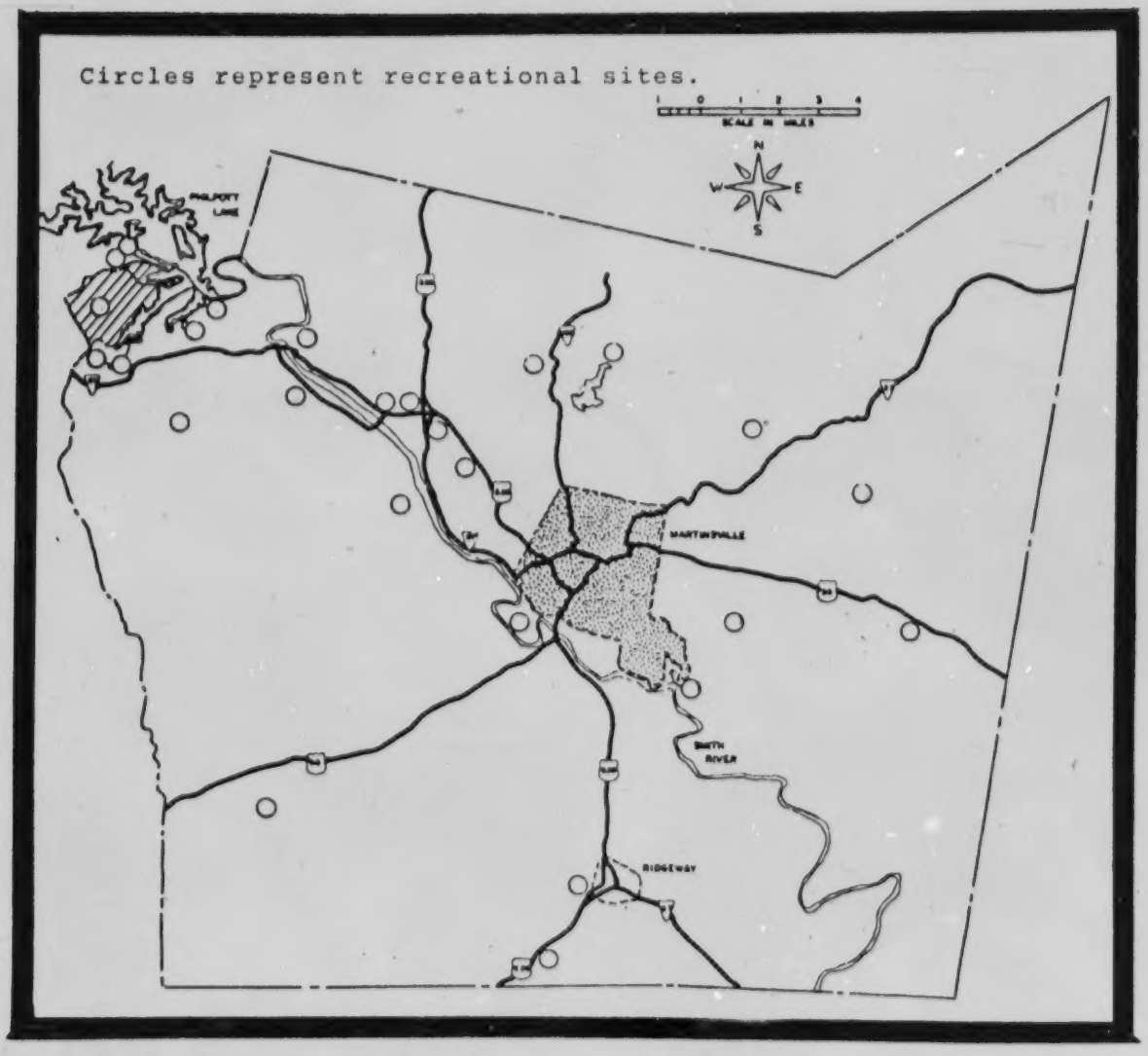
The school grounds of the twenty-four Henry County Schools provide areas of recreation such as twenty-seven baseball fields, five football fields, thiry-eight outdoor basketball goals, twenty-three playgrounds, and eight tennis courts.

Recently, Henry County received a $92,500 grant for the construction of a 25 acre park northeast of the Collinsville community. This project will include picnic shelters, multi-purpose courts, shuffle board and horseshoe courts, nature trails, an amphitheater, and a comfort station.

Fairystone State Park is located in adjoining Patrick County and offers boating, camping, swimming, and fishing. Henry County citizens visit this facility often. Philpott Reservoir is located in the northwest section of Henry County. It also provides a place for fishing, boating, swimming, and camping.

Other recreational facilities include the Martinsville Reservoir on Beaver Creek for fishing and boating. Trout fishing and hunting are popular throughout the county. There are two private hunting clubs in the eastern half of the county.

HENRY COUNTY RECREATIONAL AREAS



Recreation Facilities - Henry County (1972)

Sites / Facilities	Boating	Boat Ramp	Marina	Campsites	Fishing	Golf Holes	Picnic Tables	Swim Beaches	Swim Pool	Bball/Sball Flds.	Football Fld.	Basketball Ct.	Volleyball Ct.	Tennis Ct.	Shuffleboard Ct.	Archery Range	Rifle/Pistol Range	Playgrounds	Horseshoes	Miniature Golf	Driving Range	Hunting	Hiking Trails	Boat Rental	Horse Trails	Public	Private
Philpott Park	x	v		50			30																			x	
Philpott Reservoir	x	v	x	v	x		v	v																		x	
Martinsville Reservoir	x				x		12																			x	
Fairystone Farm WMA																										x	
Ridgeway Wayside							5															x	v			x	
Bassett Rec. Center							21		1	2	1	8	1	1	3			1	1		1		1			x	
Stanleytown Rec. Center							8		1	2		4	1		4			1	4				1				x
Bassett Comm. Center							25		1	2		1						1									x
Collinsville Rec. Center							12		1	2	2		1						1								x
Fieldale Comm. Center				10			10		1	2	1	2						1	2								x
Mize Point	x	1		11	x																						
Goose Point	x	1		33	x		25	1																		x	
Bowens Creek	x	1		17	x			1																		x	
Martin's Stables																										x	
Hale's Fish Pond					x																				x		x
Leatherwood Downs																										x	
Ridgeway Sportsman Lake	x	1		50	x		50	v																	x		x
Henry Co. Beagle Club																											x
Patrick Henry Farms																						x					x
Beaver Hill Golf Course						18																x					x
Bassett Country Club						9			1																		x
Lynwood Club						18			1					2													x
Forest Park Country Club						18			1					2													x
Chatmoss Country Club						18			1					5													x
Putt-Putt Golf Course																				x						x	
Stanleytown Elem. Sch.										1		2					1									x	
Mary Hunter Elem. Sch.										1		2					1									x	

Recreation Facilities - Henry County (1972)

Sites / Facilities	Boating	Boat Ramp	Marina	Campsites	Fishing	Golf Holes	Picnic Tables	Swim Beaches	Swim Pool	Bball/Sball Flds.	Football Fld.	Basketball Ct.	Volleyball Ct.	Tennis Ct.	Shuffleboard Ct.	Archery Range	Rifle/Pistol Range	Playgrounds	Horseshoes	Miniature Golf	Driving Range	Hunting	Hiking Trails	Boat Rental	Horse Trails	Public	Private
Campbell Ct. Elem. Sch.										1		4						1								x	
Collinsville Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
John Redd Smith Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Fieldale Elem. Sch.										1								1								x	
Irisburg Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Leatherwood Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Mt. Olivet Elem. Sch.										1		4						1								x	
Richard Clarke Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Ridgeway Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Sam Hairston Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Sanville Elem. Sch.										2		2						1								x	
Spencer Penn Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Martinsville Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Rich Acres Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Axton Elem. Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Fieldale Primary Sch.										1		2						1								x	
Laurel Park High Sch.										2	1							1								x	
G. W. Carver High Sch.										2	1			2				1								x	
Drewry Mason High Sch.										2	1			2				1								x	
Fieldale-Collinsville H.S.										1	1			2				1								x	
Bassett High Sch.										2	1			2				1								x	
Henry Co. Skeet Club																	v										x

GOVERNMENT

From each of the six magisterial districts the voters elect a representative, or supervisor, to serve for a period of four years on the County Board of Supervisors, and beginning after the 1979 election, staggered terms will be instituted. These officials have no magisterial district functions, but are individually responsible to their electorate. Together they serve as the legislative and policy-making body of the county government. An executive secretary or county administrator is appointed by the Board to execute the duties approved by the Board. The Board has regularly scheduled meetings once a month at the new Henry County Administration Building.

The county administrator and his staff are housed in this Administration Building on King's Mountain Road. Beside the new building is the county jail, Sheriff's Department, and the Department of Social Services. The county landfill is located behind these buildings, and the capacity should be reached in several years.

COMMUNICATIONS

There is one local newspaper The Henry County Journal in the county. It is published every Thursday and has a circulation of about 5,900. The Martinsville Bulletin, published in Martinsville with a circulation of about 17,000, is issued daily. These papers provide local, state and national news. Also available on a daily basis are newspapers from nearby Greensboro, North Carolina and Roanoke, Virginia. The Druid Hills Baptist Church owns the only television station in this area. A cable television station located in Martinsville offers TV cable service. Channels are received from Roanoke, Lynchburg, Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem, and Washington, D. C., and two educational TV stations. The area has four local radio stations.

WODY - Bassett. Daytime. 500 watts, directional to south and east

WFIC - Collinsville, Daytime. 1530 watts KC ABC affiliate

WMVA, AM and FM - Martinsville. Daytime. 1000 watts 100,000 watt night. Primary coverage is 471,217 persons and an area of 4,923 miles. NBC affiliate. 1450 KC

WHEE - Martinsville. Daytime. 5000 watts. 1370 KC. UPI affiliate.

EVALUATION OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT CENSUS DATA:

There is only one district, Martinsville, which is predominately urban in character and only two other districts, Reed Creek and Blackberry, which have any urban population. All of these districts are located in the northern and northeastern segments of the county. The lack of significant rural farm population attests to the small amount of farming in all the magisterial districts. Iriswood to the east has the largest rural farm population with 7%. The rural non-farm pattern is very strong in every district however. Of the persons 14 years and older by occupation, the large percentage of operatives and kindred supports the statistics of persons fourteen years and older by industry. The preponderance of people engaged in manufacturing far outreaches the national and state statistics.

Of all the people whose income is below the poverty level, the largest percent is to be found in the ranks of those age sixty-five and over. As high as fifty percent of the elderly in the Iriswood District were found to be living in poverty. Horsepasture, Blackberry, and Reed Creek also had significantly high incidences of impoverished elderly citizens. Overall, Iriswood had the highest percent of the total population dwelling below the poverty level, twenty percent.

The quality of life was generally reflected in income levels, telephone availability, median home value, and automobile availability. The highest median house value was found in the Iriswood District and the lowest in the Blackberry District. Median income levels were highest in the Martinsville District and lowest in Blackberry. Both districts had the same ranking in median school years completed. Telephone and automobile unavailability was highest in Iriswood while Martinsville reported the highest number of people with telephones and Reed Creek, the highest number with automobiles.

Some of the most significant and valuable statistics for the library's purpose were to be found in the education analysis. Comparison of the data indicates significantly improved educational levels from previous years in all districts with marked upward trends toward high school education and improved statistics of the college educated.

A fairly even distribution of white males and white females emerged in the districts with the highest span being 3% more white females than white males in the Martinsville District. Only two districts have large Negro populations, Iriswood with 45% and Horsepasture with 34%. Black males and black females are relatively evenly divided in all districts. It appears that in 1970 mobile homes were not represented to a great extent in housing patterns. All districts save one reported 11% with Martinsville having only 7%.

In the comparative statistics with the United States and the State of Virginia, Henry County families indicated very similar statistics in the $5,000.00-$14,999.00 income categories. Considerable differences were noticed beginning with income levels of $15,000.00 and upward with Henry County lagging further behind with each step. The per capita income in Henry County was below that reported by both the state and federal governments.

The most discernible differences and among the most regrettable are in the years of school completed. Henry County indicated far less formal schooling than the state or the national statistics disclosed.

Although the number of persons age sixty-five and over living below the poverty level compared favorably with the United States statistics, the percentage exceeded that of the state; and the quality of life was further indicated by the much lower median value of the owner-occupied single family dwelling with Henry County trailing the state median by $4,000 and behind the national median by almost the same figure.

Census data charts are presented on the following pages. In all districts where no statistics are indicated, the measurement was either less than one percent or no activity existed at all.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT
1970

EACH DOT • EQUALS 200 PEOPLE.

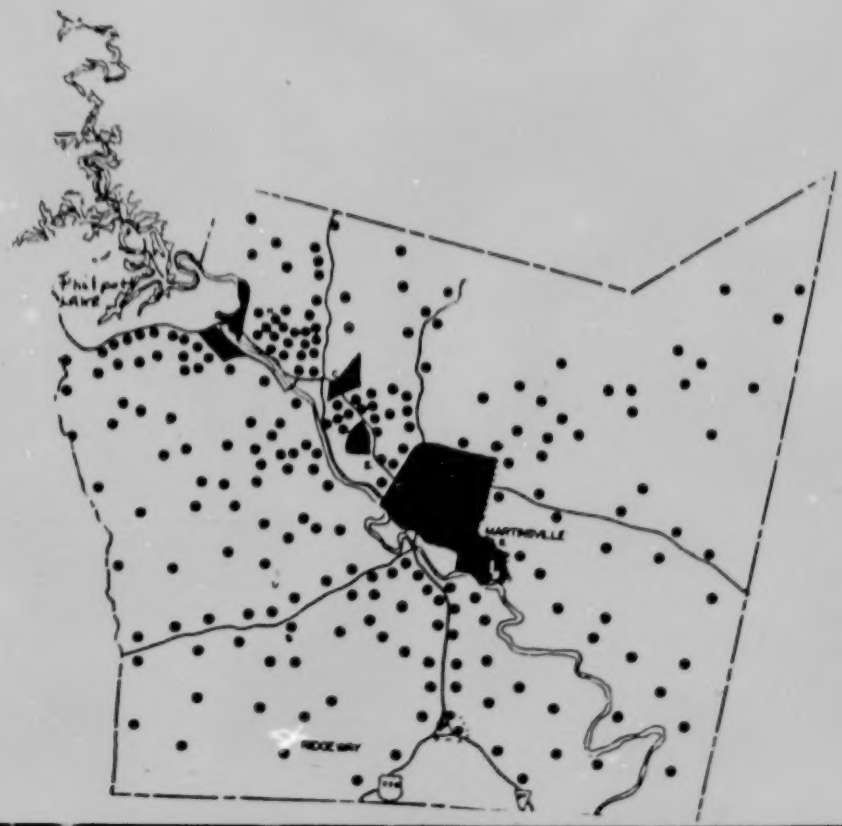
AREAS OF HIGH POPULATION DENSITY

AREA	DENSITY (Persons per sq. mile)
A	2,760
B	1,780
C	1,680
D	1,360
E	1,030
F	940
G	890
H	880

SOURCE U.S. CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1970 (BY ENUMERATION DISTRICT)

NOTE THE PREPARATION OF THIS MAP WAS FINANCED IN PART THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING GRANT TO THE WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HENRY COUNTY



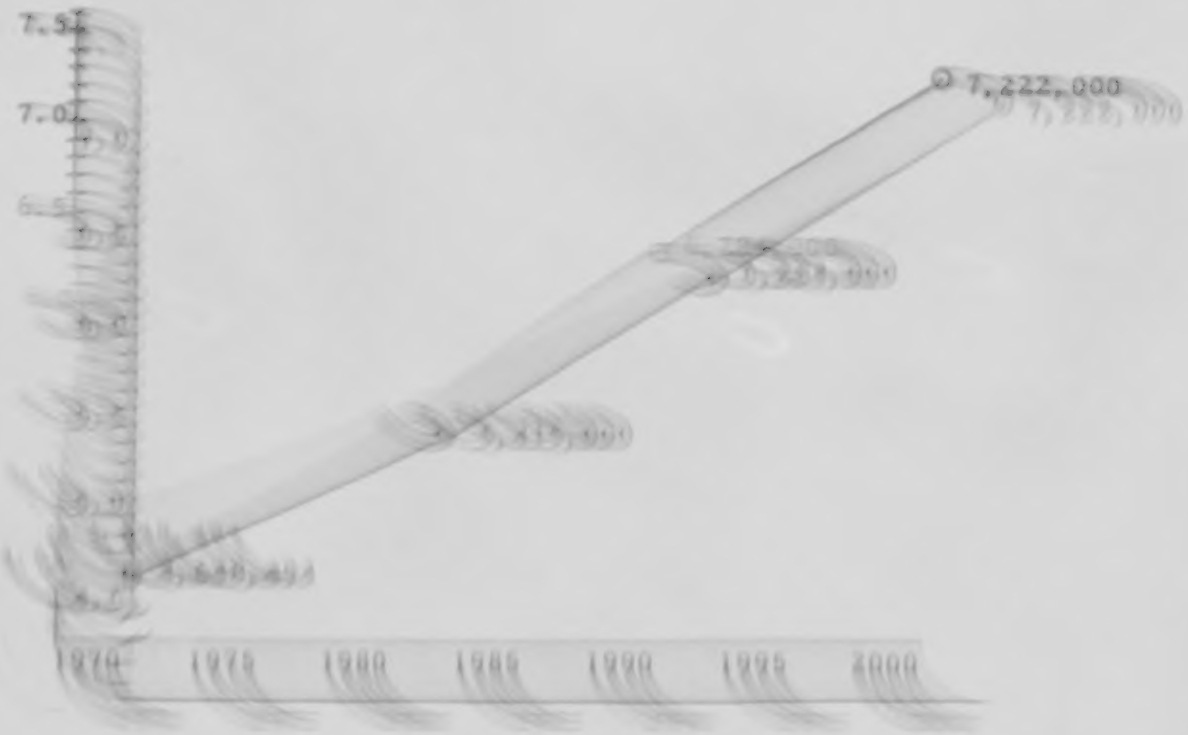
POPULATION OF HENRY COUNTY

Year	1940	1950	1960	1970
Population	26,481	31,219	40,335	50,901

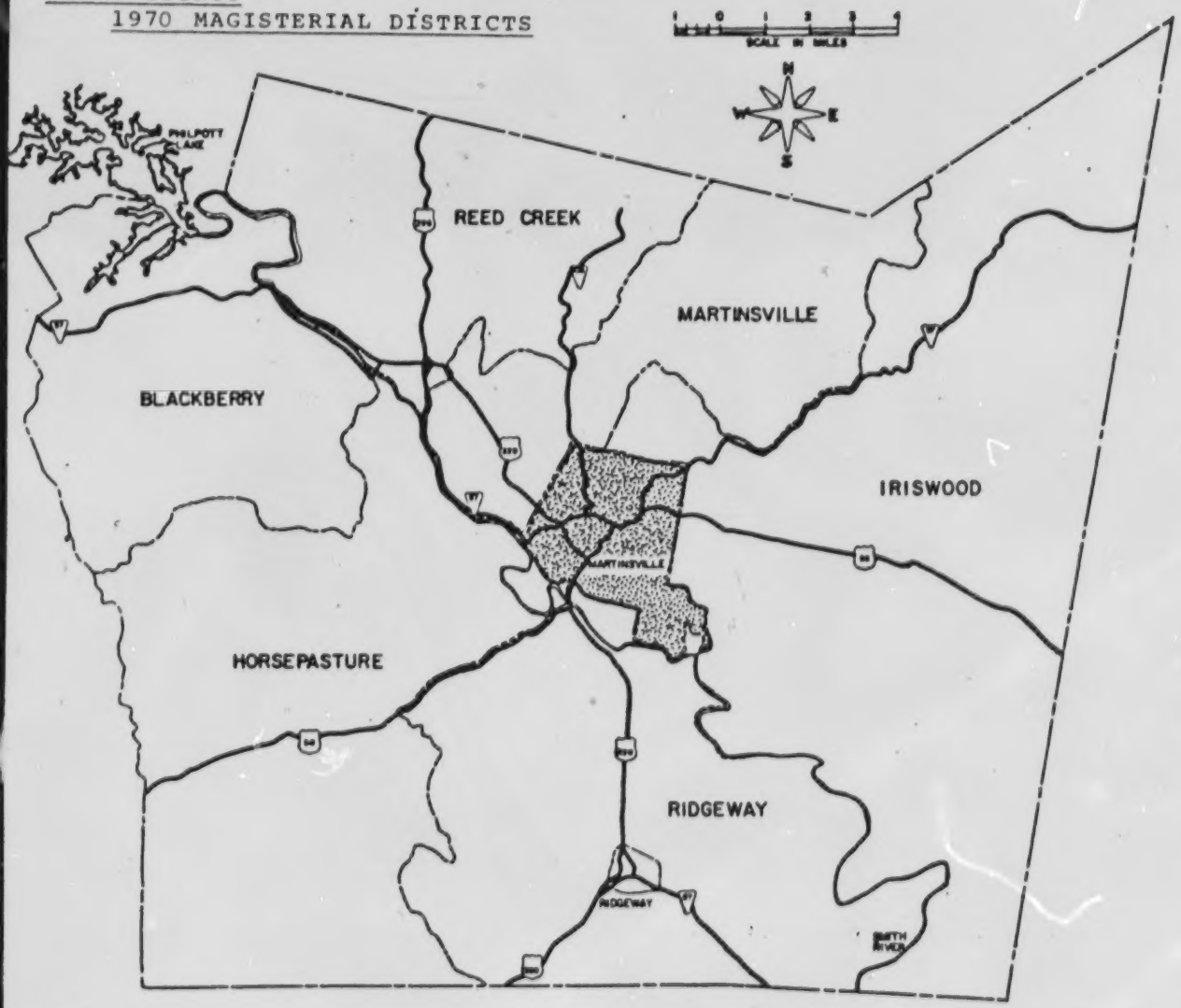
Population Projections 1970-2000
Henry County (Population in Thousands)

When compared to the population projections of Virginia as depicted by the map on the following page, it appears that Henry County's population increase will exceed on the average the increase of the growth rate of the State as a whole until the year 2000.

Population Projection: 1970-2000
Virginia Population (in Millions)

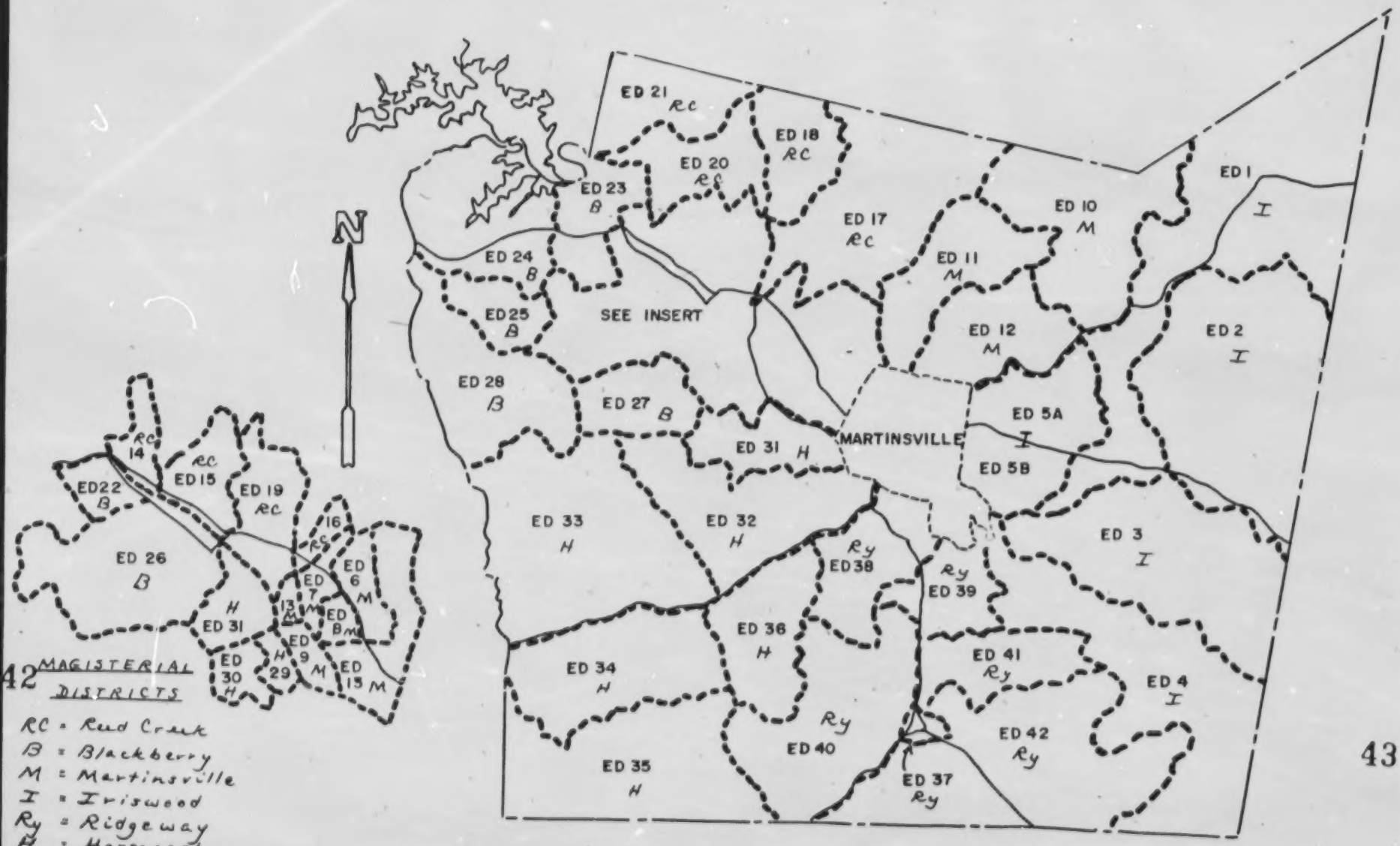


HENRY COUNTY
1970 MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS



HENRY COUNTY

ENUMERATION DISTRICTS



42 MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS

RC = Red Creek
B = Blackberry
M = Martinsville
I = Iriswood
Ry = Ridgeway
H = Horsepasture

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

United States - Virginia - Henry County

General Data

	U.S.	Virginia	Henry County
Population 65 years and older	9.9%	7.9%	5.7%
Median Age	28.3 yrs.	27.0 yrs.	26.3 yrs.
Female Population	51.3%	50.6%	50.7%
Urban Population	73.5%	63.1%	17.8%
Population Per Square Mile	57	117	134
Net Migration	1.7%	3.6%	7.5%
Median Value, Owner-Occupied Single Family Dwelling	$17,130	$17,366	$13,305

Persons 25 Years and Older: School Years Completed

	U.S.	Virginia	Henry County
Median Age	12.1 yrs.	11.7 yrs.	9.2 yrs.
Less Than 5 Yrs.	5.5%	7.7%	11.7%
4 Years High School or More	52.3%	47.8%	32.6%
4 Years College or More	10.7%	12.3%	4.1%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Families with Income

	U.S.	Virginia	Henry County
Under $3,000	10.3%	11.0%	7.9%
$3,000 - $4,999	10.0%	11.0%	10.8%
$5,000 - $6,999	11.9%	13.4%	18.6%
$10,000 - $14,999	26.6%	23.9%	27.0%
$15,000 - $24,999	16%	15.2%	8.5%
$25,000 or over	4.6%	4.5%	1.2%
Median Family	$9,586	$9,044	$8,469

Individual Income Data

	U.S.	Virginia	Henry County
Persons Below Poverty Level	27,057,482	689,249	6,098
65+ and Below Poverty Level	19.3%	15.9%	18.4%
Per Capita	$3,119	$2,996	$2,468

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Labor Force

	U.S.	Virginia	Henry County
Unemployed	4.4%	3.0%	2.1%
Industry			
Manufacturing	25.9%	22.4%	59.6%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	20.1%	18.0%	12.2%
Business, Personal and Repair Services	7.7%	7.9%	4.8%
Educational Services	8.0%	7.8%	4.3%
Construction	6.0%	7.4%	6.5%
Government	16.1%	23.5%	6.5%
White Collar Workers			
Professional, Managerial	23.2%	24.6%	11.8%
Sales, Clerical	25.1%	24.4%	15.3%
Craftsmen, Foremen	13.9%	14.3%	16.7%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS

Urban-rural Population

	Urban	Rural Non-farm	Rural Farm
Reed Creek	34%	66%	0
Blackberry	12%	87%	1 %
Martinsville	55%	45%	0
Iriswood	0	93%	7%
Ridgeway	0	99%	1%
Horsepasture	0	98%	2%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Persons by Race

	White	Negro
Reed Creek	85%	15%
Blackberry	84%	16%
Martinsville	93%	7%
Iriswood	55%	45%
Ridgeway	84%	16%
Horsepasture	66%	34%

Persons by Race and Sex

	White Male	White Female	Black Male	Black Female
Reed Creek	42%	43%	7%	8%
Blackberry	43%	42%	7%	8%
Martinsville	45%	48%	3.5%	3.5%
Iriswood	27%	27%	23%	23%
Ridgeway	41%	43%	7%	8%
Horsepasture	33%	33%	17%	17%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Persons 14 Yrs. + by Industry	Construction	Manufacturing	Durable goods	Transportation	Communic, util, sanit.ser.	Wholesale & retail	Finance, insur., bus, rpr.	Other professional ser.	Educational services	Public administration	Other industries
Reed Creek	5%	45%	25%	3%	0	9%	3%	3%	3%	1%	3%
Blackberry	4%	50%	29%	1%	1%	7%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Martinsville	7%	42%	15%	4%	3%	13%	3%	4%	4%	2%	4%
Iriswood	5%	50%	19%	3%	1%	6%	2%	3%	3%	1%	7%
Ridgeway	5%	50%	17%	3%	1%	11%	3%	2%	3%	1%	4%
Horsepasture	6%	46%	19%	1%	1%	10%	3%	2%	6%	1%	5%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Persons 14 Yrs. + by Occupation	Prof., tech., & kindred	Farmers & farm mgrs.	Mgrs., offcls., props.	Clerical & kindred	Sales workers	Craftsmen, foremen, etc.	Operatives & kindred	Service (incl. hshold)	Farm laborers & foremen	Laborers (ex. frm & mine)
Reed Creek	7%	0	7%	12%	4%	18%	43%	4%	0	5%
Blackberry	3%	0	3%	11%	2%	18%	54%	5%	0	4%
Martinsville	9%	0	8%	15%	6%	15%	35%	6%	0	6%
Iriswood	6%	1%	4%	7%	2%	16%	48%	10%	1%	5%
Ridgeway	5%	1%	5%	12%	6%	18%	40%	9%	0	4%
Horsepasture	7%	1%	4%	10%	4%	16%	42%	9%	1%	6%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Persons 3-34 Yrs. of Age in School (15%)	Nursery School	Kindergarten	Elementary School	High School	College
Reed Creek	0	2%	69%	26%	3%
Blackberry	1%	1%	72%	25%	1%
Martinsville	1%	2%	69%	26%	2%
Iriswood	0	0	70%	27%	3%
Ridgeway	1%	2%	67%	28%	2%
Horsepasture	0	1%	63%	28%	8%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Persons 25 Yrs. + by Age and Years of Schooling	no school Comp.	Elem.:1-7 yrs.	Elem.: 8 yrs.	High sch.:1-3 yrs.	High sch.: 4 yrs.	college: 1-3 yrs.	college:4 yrs.+
25-44 yrs.							
Reed Creek	0	23%	9%	23%	33%	5%	7%
Blackberry	0	29%	12%	24%	28%	4%	3%
Martinsville	0	14%	6%	21%	41%	9%	8%
Iriswood	1%	24%	12%	25%	31%	4%	3%
Ridgeway	1%	20%	6%	23%	35%	8%	7%
Horsepasture	0	19%	8%	22%	37%	8%	6%
45-54 yrs.							
Reed Creek	1%	39%	35%	12%	9%	2%	2%
Blackberry	1%	71%	8%	10%	8%	1%	1%
Martinsville	0	42%	8%	20%	20%	6%	4%
Iriswood	3%	49%	12%	16%	14%	5%	2%
Ridgeway	2%	42%	8%	24%	20%	3%	1%
Horsepasture	1%	55%	11%	16%	14%	1%	2%
55+ yrs.							
Reed Creek	7%	60%	4%	7%	13%	4%	5%
Blackberry	7%	83%	6%	3%	1%	0	0
Martinsville	4%	58%	10%	14%	11%	3%	0
Iriswood	7%	64%	6%	9%	10%	4%	1%
Ridgeway	5%	62%	9%	10%	7%	4%	3%
Horsepasture	3%	71%	7%	9%	7%	3%	0

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Owner-occupied Housing Units/Value

	Less than $5,000	$5,000-7,499	$7,500-9,999	$10,000-14,999	$15,000-19,999	$20,000-24,999	$25,000-34,999	$35,000-49,999	$50,000 or more
Reed Creek	7%	9%	14%	30%	20%	12%	6%	3%	1%
Blackberry	20%	13%	13%	27%	17%	6%	2%	1%	0
Martinsville	3%	6%	13%	27%	23%	14%	12%	1%	1%
Iriswood	10%	9%	11%	20%	26%	15%	5%	2%	2%
Ridgeway	4%	11%	14%	25%	22%	13%	9%	2%	0
Horsepasture	14%	13%	18%	24%	19%	5%	7%	0	0

Total Occupied Housing Units by Type of Structure

	1-unit structure	2-unit structure	3-or 4-unit struc.	5 - 49 unit struc.	50 or + unit struc.	Mobile homes or trailers
Reed Creek	83%	2%	1%	3%	0	11%
Blackberry	87%	1%	1%	0	0	11%
Martinsville	86%	5%	1%	1%	0	7%
Iriswood	87%	2%	0	0	0	11%
Ridgeway	84%	3%	1%	1%	0	11%
Horsepasture	87%	1%	1%	0	0	11%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Count of Families + Unrelated Individuals 14+ by Income

Income	Families					
	Reed Creek	Blackberry	Martinsville	Iriswood	Ridgeway	Horsepasture
Under $100	0	1%	2%	3%	1%	2%
$1000-1999	4%	3%	2%	5%	2%	3%
2000-2999	3%	4%	2%	4%	2%	4%
3000-3999	3%	5%	5%	7%	2%	5%
4000-4999	6%	6%	10%	8%	6%	8%
5000-5999	11%	11%	7%	8%	6%	8%
6000-6999	8%	14%	9%	8%	12%	9%
7000-7999	7%	10%	8%	10%	7%	11%
8000-8999	11%	8%	9%	10%	10%	8%
9000-9999	10%	11%	1%	6%	8%	8%
10000-11999	14%	14%	16%	13%	20%	16%
12000-14999	14%	7%	14%	8%	13%	12%
15000-24999	8%	5%	13%	9%	10%	6%
25000-49999	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0
50000 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Percentage of Total Population Below Poverty Level

Reed Creek	10%
Blackberry	11%
Martinsville	8%
Iriswood	20%
Ridgeway	7%
Horsepasture	16%

Persons by Age Below Poverty Level

	Age 65 and above	Under 65 years
Reed Creek	30%	9%
Blackberry	52%	9%
Martinsville	18%	7%
Iriswood	50%	18%
Ridgeway	33%	6%
Horsepasture	45%	14%

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS (Con't.)

Telephone Availability

	Telephone Available	Telephone not available
Reed Creek	77%	23%
Blackberry	69%	31%
Martinsville	85%	15%
Iriswood	71%	29%
Ridgeway	81%	19%
Horsepasture	76%	23%

Occupied Units without Automobiles

Reed Creek	2%
Blackberry	13%
Martinsville	11%
Iriswood	17%
Ridgeway	10%
Horsepasture	15%

community groups

SURVEY OF GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS SERVING HENRY COUNTY

A vital part of any community is its organizations. In the analysis of a community provided by the community survey process, one of the desired results is that provided by identifying and analyzing the major organizations including volunteer groups as well as public and private service agencies. A major thrust of the Greer-Hale analysis process is an organizations survey. The importance of this is likewise emphasized by Croneberger and Luck in their article, "Analyzing Community Human Information Needs: A Case Study" (Library Trends, January, 1976.) "In the task of community analysis, it is essential to recognize groups, organizations, and other agencies as part of the community." They also advise approaching groups with respect and learning about them in order to provide services which the groups want and need.

Our purpose in doing this survey of groups and organizations serving Henry County was three-fold:

(1) to gather accurate, current information about the organizations themselves - numbers, membership, purpose, activities, etc.

(2) to ascertain how those organizations were currently using the services of the Blue Ridge Regional Library system

(3) to gather information about the organizations' projected needs for future library service.

The first step in the methodology was developing a card file listing as comprehensive as possible of all the clubs, organizations, private and public agencies located in Henry County. Agencies and organizations located in Martinsville but serving the people in Henry County were included. Excluded were organizations with members from the city or agencies serving only Martinsville.

There were three major sources consulted, supplemented by six secondary ones. The Chamber of Commerce publishes a list of civic, service, professional, fraternal, veteran and affiliated, and miscellaneous organizations with contact persons, updated annually, which was the key source. The other two major sources used were the Directory of Social Services in the West Piedmont Planning District, 1976 edition (published by West Piedmont Planning District Commission), and a commercial directory, Johnson's Community Directory for Martinsville, Virginia (1977 edition). The six secondary sources were:

- The Martinsville Bulletin's card file of organizations
- a selected search of The Martinsville Bulletin's daily feature, the "Calendar of Events"
- lists from agencies and clubs
- the Area Council of Community Services organizing list
-Observations on Ride Around
-Personal knowledge as gleaned from the library staff

The card file list reached a total of 250 organizations and agencies. On each card was noted the name of the organization, permanent or current mailing address, phone number, name of president/chairperson/director, address if different, home and business phone numbers, hours and/or meeting time if available. The sources listing it was also noted in code.

The second major step was developing the questionnaire to be sent to the organizations. We worked from a list of our own questions and an example of the questionnaire used by the Nassau Library System in their analysis of community organizations. The length was limited to one page front and back, so as to facilitate its completion by busy organization leaders. The final form was printed by a local printing company at a cost of $13.00. The questions reflected the three objectives of gathering information about the organization, its current use of the library, and its projected future needs.

The questionnaire was mailed out with a cover letter explaining the reason for the survey and how results would be used, asking cooperation in filling out and returning it within a two-week time period, and offering library assistance as needed. We included a stamped, self-addressed envelope to facilitate the return.

When the completed questionnaires came in, the date received was stamped on the questionnaire and on the organization's card within the card file listing. The organizational information on the questionnaire was checked against that on the card and corrections made as necessary. The cards for organizations returning the questionnaires were then filed separately.

On the due date, a reminder phone call process was begun to encourage feedback from organizations not yet responding. The date of this call was noted on the file card. This process increased return by 88%.

Blue Ridge Regional Library

310 East Church Street P. O. Box 5264 Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Telephone (703) 632-7125

February 3, 1978

Dear Community Leader:

The Blue Ridge Regional Library is conducting an analysis of Henry County in order to ascertain how the library system might better serve the people of this community. With your cooperation in answering the questionnaire and promptly returning same in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope, library personnel will also be able to determine how much people in the community already know about the services now offered by the library.

After evaluating the information you give us on the questionnaire, some changes in our approach to library service for Henry County may be indicated. If this is the case, the library staff will make every effort to implement the desired changes as soon as time and budget permit. Please do not hesitate to express your opinion. No suggestion is too small or too ambitious for the library staff to consider. We are anxious to know what you think.

If you encounter any difficulty or have any questions as you complete the enclosed survey, or should you need additional information or an extra copy, please call Betty M. Ragsdale or Carl DeHart at 632-7125. Your cooperation in returning the form by February 20th will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Betty M. Ragsdale

Betty M. Ragsdale
Director

BR:dv

BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Questionnaire to County and County-Wide Organizations and Agencies

Will you please answer the following questions in order that the Blue Ridge Regional Library may learn how it may be of service to your organization or agency.

Name of Organization or Agency _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Head of Organization or Agency/Title _____

Address and Telephone Number if different from above _____

_____

Name of person filling out questionnaire if different from above _____

_____ Telephone _____

1. Number of members or staff in your organization _____

2. Are your members from or do you serve people from

___ Both Martinsville and Henry County
___ Henry County only
___ Martinsville only

3. What are the major purposes or goals of your organization?

4. What services/activities does your organization provide for the community?

5. In which of the following groups would you classify your organization? (Check more than one if necessary)

___ Business/Commerce/Professional
___ Cultural
___ Educational
___ Governmental
___ Health Agency
___ Recreation and Entertainment
___ Service
___ Other: _____

6. Does your organization use the Blue Ridge Regional Library at the present time?
___ Yes ___ No

If yes, approximately how many times in the last year has your organization used the library?(For example 1/week, 1/month, etc.)

What Library Services has your organization used?

7. Does your organization have a collection of literature which is available for use by the public? ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, please describe briefly:

8. Please check below the kinds of library service you feel your organization needs or would like to have in the future. (Check as many as you wish—star those which you feel are most important.)

___ Loan of books
___ High interest-low reading level book collection
___ Loan of magazines and newspapers
___ Loan of pamphlets
___ Exhibits of books and pamphlets
___ Loan of tape cassettes
___ Loan of records
___ Loan of 16mm films
___ Loan of 8mm films
___ Loan of 8mm or 16mm projector
___ Materials for the disadvantaged
___ Materials for the handicapped
___ Large print books
___ Books in Braille
___ Talking book service
___ Reference Service
___ Reading lists/Bibliographies
___ The Information Center
___ Children's Services
___ Bookmobile
___ Shut-in Service for individuals
___ Speakers for programs
___ Other(please specify) _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

9. What subjects would interest your group most?

10. If the library had a meeting room, would your organization use it? ___Yes ___No

11. Would your group like to have a display in the library during a certain week or weeks each year? ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, which time(s) of the year?

12. Does your organization use libraries in the area other than the Blue Ridge Regional Library? ___ Yes ___ No

If a meeting between a representative of your organization and a staff person of Blue Ridge Regional Library is desired, please contact either Betty M. Ragsdale or Carl DeHart at 632-7125.

Comments:

Date _____

Analysis of Responses

We received a total of 154 questionnaires or a 62% rate of return. Of these, three organizations were found to be serving Martinsville only, and were excluded, leaving a total sample size of 151 organizations. The responses focus on the three objectives of the survey.

A. General data about the organizations

The total number of members or staff in the 138 organizations supplying this information totaled 7,089. An estimate of the total population these organizations represent would be 8,000-8,250. Of these organizations, 43 serve only Henry County. The remaining 105 serve both Martinsville and Henry County.

Organizations were asked to classify themselves in one or more of the following categories:

-Business/Commerce/Professional
-Cultural
-Educational
-Governmental
-Health Agency
-Recreation & Entertainment
-Service
-Other

Based on the responses, 64 organizations see themselves as multi-purpose, checking two to six classifications. Eighty-one checked only a single classification. Eleven indicated some other category, or none. Because this self-categorizing process resulted in a configuration of 41 categories, and there was no indication of the major function of the multi-purpose organizations, the organizations were reclassified into a smaller number of more general categories based on the self-categorization, stated purpose, services and activities, and the library staff's general knowledge of each organization. Following is a list of these categories, examples of organizations within them, and the number organizations within each.

General data about the organizations (Con't.)

TYPE	EXAMPLE	NUMBER
Business/ Professional	American Business Woman Assoc.	
	Financial Managers Association	15
Cultural	Archeological Society of Virginia	
	Piedmont Arts Assoc.	5
Cultural/ Service	Children of the Confederacy	
	Dig & Dream Garden Club	14
Educational	Campbell Court Parent Teachers Organization	
	Virginia Cooperative Extension Service	12
Educational/ Social	4-H Clubs	4
Governmental	Anchor I Probation House	
	Henry County Planning Commission	15
Health (including Mental Health)	Patrick Henry Mental Health Center	
	Patrick Henry Drug & Alcohol Council	12
Recreational	Collinsville Recreation Center	
	Family YMCA	4
Service	American National Red Cross	
	Ridgeway Lions Club	18
Social	Friendship Club	
	Mart.-H.C. Senior Citizens	3
Social/Service	Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Chapters	
	Extension Homemakers Clubs	50

General data about the organizations (Con't.)

The purpose statements of each of these organizations represent a variety of concerns and interests. Major themes which emerged were strong concerns for intellectual and cultural stimulation, educational growth, self-improvement, and skill-development; concerns about the community -- its growth, education, and improvement; concerns for providing services of many kinds to those in need of such services; concern for professional association, cooperation, and development; concern for opportunities for recreation and fellowship.

These concerns are expressed through a wide variety of services and activities. These range from family counseling to community education programs, from student scholarships to volunteer and charity work, from locating potential eye donors to fund-raising and financial sponsorship. There are 35 organizations which indicated having some kinds of in-house literature available for use by the public. The literature collections range from brochures offered on the services afforded (i.e., Social Security Administration, life insurance, alcoholism) to small specific libraries (i.e., Mental Health Association library and the Amateur Radio Associations magazine collection) to the library at the area community college.

B. How the organizations are using the library at present

Out of the 151 organizations responding, 63, or 42%, report using the library in some way. The majority of these use the library about once a month. The full breakdown is as follows:

Frequency of Use	Number of Organizations
Daily	1
2/week	3
1/week	6
2/month	5
1/month	30
5-6/year	3
1-4/year	4

The services which are currently being most used by the 63 organizations are books, audio-visual aids, and research/reference service. The following chart shows the complete list of services being used and the number using them.

Library Service	Number Organizations Using
Books	23
Audiovisual Aides	19
Research/reference	17
Films	10
Bookmobile	7
Records	4
Display	4
Speakers	2
Children's Services	2
Xerox copying	2
Interlibrary Loan	1
Summer Reading Program	1
No services specified	8

The organizations currently using the library form a cross-section of the various categories of organizations. For the most part they have membership or staff from both Martinsville and Henry County. Of those 43 organizations which serve only Henry County, only 8, or 19%, are currently using library services.

C. Projected Needs for Future Library Use

Out of the 151 organizations returning the questionnaire, 123, or 82% indicated future need of library services. Out of these, 63 organizations indicated no current use of library services, but did indicate a future need. A number of written

responses indicated that the idea of using library services to aid in the work of the organization was a new one.

In the responses to the checklist of 22 library services available, with space to specify other needs, a strong pattern of needs and interests emerged. The five strongest needs were for the loan of books, films, and film projectors, speakers for programs, and reference service. The following table gives a complete listing of the needs for future library service as indicated by the organizations.

FUTURE NEED OF LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Service	Number Organizations Indicating Need	Number Organizations Prioritizing Service
Loan of books	67	6
Speakers for programs	63	8
Loan of 8mm or 16mm projector	61	6
Loan of 16mm films	54	4
Reference Service	47	5
Loan of 8mm films	33	2
Loan of tape cassettes	30	1
Bookmobile	26	7
Materials for the handicapped	26	2
Loan of magazines and newspapers	22	2
Materials for the disadvantaged	22	1
Shut-in Service for individuals	22	1
The Information Center	21	2
Children's Services	19	2
Large print books	18	3
Loan of records	18	1
Talking Book Service	17	2
Loan of pamphlets	17	1
Reading lists/Bibliographies	16	2
Exhibits of books and pamphlets	16	0
High interest-low reading level book collection	14	1
Books in Braille	13	2

Other services specifically requested:

Sewing pattern exchange	2
Book reviews	1
Conference room	1
Film preview room	1
How-to films	1
Loan of cassette player	1
Professional journals	1
Agency information and referral service	1
Slide projector	1
Videocassette equipment	1

In an attempt to predict the future space needs of organizations in this area, we asked whether the group would use a meeting room if the library had such. A total of 59 groups and agencies, or 39%, indicated such a need.

One feature which the library offers is areas for display of materials, posters, etc., about an organization, a particular activity, etc. Fifty-six organizations, or 37%, indicated a future desire for this service with most supplying specific weeks or months. Most displays would be in connection with a group activity or interest in connection with national organizational concerns. A complete list of these organizations and their preferred display time has been compiled for future library use.

There were out of the 151 organizations, only 22, or 14.6%, which indicated their use of other area libraries. This means that 85.4% contact the Blue Ridge Regional Library System exclusively for their library service.

Organizations were invited to indicate subjects of particular interest to them, and 56% did so. Their responses fall into the three general areas of community interests, technical interests, and personal interests. Some organizations simply indicated a "wide variety of interests." The following chart shows the specific interests and the number indicating each.

TOPICS OF INTEREST IDENTIFIED BY RESPONDENTS

COMMUNITY INTERESTS	TOTAL
Improvement of Community, Fund-raising	7
Safety, recreation	5
Theatre	1
Total	13

TECHNICAL INTERESTS	TOTAL
Counseling, Training (alcohol, drugs)	8
Insurance, Tax, Law, Financial	5
Mental Health, Mental Retardation	4
Child Abuse, Wife Abuse	2
Conservation (Wildlife, nature)	2
Amateur Radios	1
Archeology	1
Regional Planning, regional information	1
Cosmetology	1
Total	25

PERSONAL INTERESTS	TOTAL
Health Care, Dieting, Exercise, Self-improvement	12
Homemaking, Cooking	9
"Parenting," Family Life, Children & problems	8
Crafts	8
Plants, Gardening, Horticulture	7
Clothing, sewing	7
Horses	1
Information for Senior Citizens	1
Total	53

WIDE VARIETY OF INTERESTS	8
TOTAL	99

library analysis

HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY

The plan for a public library in Martinsville, Henry County's seat of government, began in 1913 with the organization of the twenty member Woman's Club, who conceived the idea to buy books to be circulated during the year and then donated as a nucleus for a library. For a number of years books were accumulated but, because of World War I and its aftermath, the opening of a library was deferred and did not become an accomplished fact until 1931.

During the 1920's the library was located on a narrow catwalk balcony overlooking a first floor room in the old City Hall. With its limited collection, the library consisted of only a card table, a few chairs and a recipe file for index cards. In 1931 the Library Association was formed, with $1.00 per year as membership fee. As City Hall underwent stages of remodeling during the following years, the library was moved to the second floor and then the Town Council gave a room in the Municipal Building on the third floor for library use. Citizens were asked to donate books, with more books bought by the membership fees, and finally the Public Library was opened for two afternoons a week with voluntary, unpaid workers in charge. Its immediate popularity proved its need.

The library continued to function smoothly for a few years, but was closed because of a shortage of volunteer workers and waning enthusiasm. For a while it functioned during the Depression years under the payroll of a federal recovery program. Following another period of inactivity in 1936 it was opened under the Works Progress Administration and staffed by two people. In 1941 it became the City Library, under the control of the City Council and a board appointed by the Council.

At a mass meeting of Martinsville citizens, a War Memorial Library Association was organized; officers and trustees were elected; and committees were appointed to solicit funds and to buy a suitable location. Before any drive was started, $8,000.00 in cash and $20,000.00 in pledges were secured. The Andes lot and house on East Church Street was bought for $25,000.00.

In 1949 the Andes home was remodelled into an attractive and fairly adequate Public Library. In January, 1950 all the books and equipment were moved from the Municipal Building to

the Andes home. The library was entirely dependent upon the Community Chest from 1937 to 1947 for funds with which to purchase all the books and reading material. In 1947 the library was able to qualify for a State Aid grant. In 1951 the annual income had increased from $100.00 per year in 1941 to $6,278.00. Library patronage increased at a large rate. During 1950 1,034 volumes were added to the collection, making a total of 6,248 volumes. New borrowers totaled 3,723 and the circulation for the year was 13,153. The circulation statistics showed a substantial increase in reading with particular gain in the areas of religion, sociology and natural science. Staff members reported that there were many helpful contacts with individuals and organizations of all kinds: clubs, parents' associations, factories, schools, religious organizations. The total budget for 1963 was $13,400.00. For 16 years the Andes home was the location of Martinsville's library.

As the book collection increased, the library outgrew the Andes home. Numerous newspaper articles cited the need for a larger building and more books for the patrons of the library. In early 1962 a campaign was spearheaded by the Exchange Club of Martinsville to raise funds for a new library. Within several months the $100,000 goal was reached and in August, 1962, the Andes home was demolished to make room for a new library. While the new building was under construction, the library was temporarily located in a building on Ford Street. The 9,000 volumes were moved to the temporary quarters by city employees and set up in one day. The staff was composed of the librarian, her assistant and two part-time employees. The officials expected a marked increase in the use of the library by students with the opening of Patrick Henry Junior College in the fall of 1962 as cited in The Martinsville Bulletin newspaper.

Construction for the new library building began in August, 1962, and in less than a year on July 21, 1963, an open house was held for Martinsville citizens to get their first look at the interior of the new library built and equipped by their own subscription. Much of the furniture and fixtures were memorial gifts earmarked for some special need by individual donors. This same building with a few additions and some rearranging houses the library's collection in 1978.

In the first thirteen days of operation the library checked-out 3,305 books as compared to a similar time in the past year when only 988 books were checked out. During that first summer the library was open on weekdays Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Night hours were added during the fall. The library had its first summer reading program in July, 1963.

In November, 1963, the efforts of the community to secure a library were recognized as the Martinsville Memorial Library became the recipient of $1500.00 awarded by the Book-of-the-Month Club to the top ten libraries in the country to improve service to their communities. This money was used to purchase books in the areas of greatest need: children's non-fiction, fiction classics, and scientific books. The library secured a federal grant in the amount of $4,529.00 in November, 1964. The entire amount was used for the purchase of additional books.

With Martinsville's having become an independent city in 1928, there was no library service in Henry County. Patrons from Henry County could use the library for a registration fee of $6.00. This situation changed in 1972 when the library became a city-county regional public library system known as the Martinsville-Henry County Public Library. Service to all citizens of both Martinsville and Henry County was provided and a governing board reflected membership from both city and county residents. The library was now operating on funds received from the local city and county governments, state and federal funding, and some library-generated revenue from fines, copy machine receipts and gifts. At this time the library hours were increased to Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday - Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the staff totaled twenty-five people of which four were professional librarians. There were 45,395 volumes in the book collection and an average circulation of 7,800 materials (records and cassettes had been added to the collection) per month. Services also included lending of audiovisual equipment, special collections such as the Virginia Collection, current telephone directories, college catalogs, business reference books, and large print books for the visually handicapped.

Prior to 1974 no service beyond the confines of the headquarters building was offered to any locality in the county. In view of the fiscal contribution of county residents, the large number of residents in given areas, and the distance necessary to travel to the central building, it was most desireable that library service be initiated to the approximately 10,000 residents of Collinsville and the additional residents in the surrounding areas. County residents accounted for 40% of the total circulation of materials in the headquarters library in 1974. The book collection of 30,788 at the headquarters building was not adequate for the 71,000 served after the merger of Martinsville and Henry County. The need for a branch library in the county was immediately apparent.

The merger of the county with the city in extending public library service necessitated the hiring of a qualified director in order that a federal grant might be obtained for the purpose of extending library service into Henry County. A director was hired in August, 1973, and application was made for an establishment grant to develop county-wide library service. The grant in the amount of $67,680.00 was received in

1974, and an extra appropriation of $25,000.00 from Henry County supplemented the grant. A committee of the Governing Board comprised of county members on the Board was appointed to assist the director in overseeing the extension of services to the county. Since it had been determined that a branch of the library should be established at Collinsville, Virginia, in the Martinsville District, a three year contract was signed effective March 1, 1974, with a local realtor to rent a vacant store in the Collinsville Shopping Center for the purpose of establishing a store-front library. The Collinsville Library opened to the public on August 23, 1974.

After purchasing shelving, books and other materials, supplies, equipment, and furniture, the remaining portion of the county funds was utilized for operating expenses. The current operating expense and the continuing purchase of materials are financed primarily through Henry County's share of the library budget. In March, 1975, the Henry County Board of Supervisors was notified that Henry County had been selected to receive eight National Association of Counties awards, one of which was for the establishment of the Collinsville Branch Library, which resulted in the improvement of service to citizens.

Recognizing a need for library service in outlying regions of Henry County, the library administration decided to launch the first bookmobile operation in March, 1975. Due in large measure to the addition of the Collinsville Branch and bookmobile services, the library's circulation increased by over 25,000 during fiscal year 1974-75.

Bordering Henry County is Patrick County, which was formerly a part of the Franklin-Patrick Regional Library, a merger which had existed longer than two decades. Logistical difficulties in serving both Patrick and Franklin Counties with a single bookmobile and one professional librarian and the lack of sufficient population and use to justify the purchase of a second vehicle and hiring additional staff prompted exploration on the part of both libraries as to the possibility of joining the Martinsvile-Henry County system. Months of discussion and planning ensued, and the Patrick County Board of supervisors voted to request merger with the Martinsville-Henry County system while the Franklin County Board of Supervisors opted for an independent library. July 1, 1975, marked the birth of the expanded Martinsville-Henry County-Patrick County system, renamed the Blue Ridge Regional Library. The complexion of the Governing Board reflected membership from all jurisdictions: five citizens from Martinsville, four from Henry County, and two from Patrick County. The addition of Patrick County with a population of 15,282 culminated a highly satisfactory fiscal year for the Martinsville-Henry County Public Library. The increased staff had included previously the addition of four professionals, and the impend-

ing arrival of a fifth to staff the Patrick County Branch more than doubled the previous number of full-time staff.

By serving an expanded population of 86,482, which includes the Patrick County addition, the Blue Ridge Regional Library has increased its annual circulation to over 160,000 items and has extended its services through the bookmobile to many areas of both counties. The success of the merger of Patrick County with the Martinsville-Henry County system is marked by an increase of 38% in the overall use of library materials.

FACILITIES

The headquarters building was built in 1963 of brick and pre-cast concrete in contemporary architecture, facing Church Street in Martinsville and occupies seven thousand square feet. Upon entering the front door, patrons find the reference room immediately to their left. In the same area, adjacent to large windows overlooking Church Street are magazine and newspaper racks. A microfilm reader-printer and xerox machine are located near the entrance. Fiction for adults is found on shelves along the east wall and along the north and south walls. At the far end of the library is the children's section which has expanded into the conference room because of the overcrowded condition of the library. Freestanding stacks have been utilized in the soundproof meeting room to house the children's book collection. The children's area has a bay window with curved window-seat.

Freestanding stacks occupy the entire one-half of the library for the remainder of the adult collection. The circulation desk is centered in the room providing a view of most of the library. The Virginia Collection is in a counter-height stack section in the middle of the library.

Immediately in front of the entrance are stacks that house the record collection and college catalogs. To the right of the front door is the director's office. The west side of the library is devoted to the workroom. Adjacent to the workroom is another small office which is occupied by two employees. This room was originally a porch to a back entrance which was enclosed to utilize more work space.

The entire building is air-conditioned and lighted from a ceiling almost covered with large, round recessed fixtures. These are augmented with ranks of fluorescent units over the stacks. Carpeting covers the entire first floor.

On the basement floor there is a lounge room with stove and refrigerator so that the staff may prepare their meals. The remainder of the basement, except for the furnace room, contains freestanding shelves which house the periodicals and part of the book collection because there is not room for the entire collection on the main floor. Shelving in the furnace room provides storage space for janitorial supplies.

Numerous additions have been made to the main library building in the past few years. Carpeting was installed on the entire main floor which greatly reduced the noise and enhanced the appearance of the library. Moveable partitions were placed in the workroom to gain some privacy in that crowded area. As mentioned earlier, the porch was enclosed

FACILITIES (Con't.)

to make an office, and the conference room was converted into stacks for children's books in order to make room for a children's reading area.

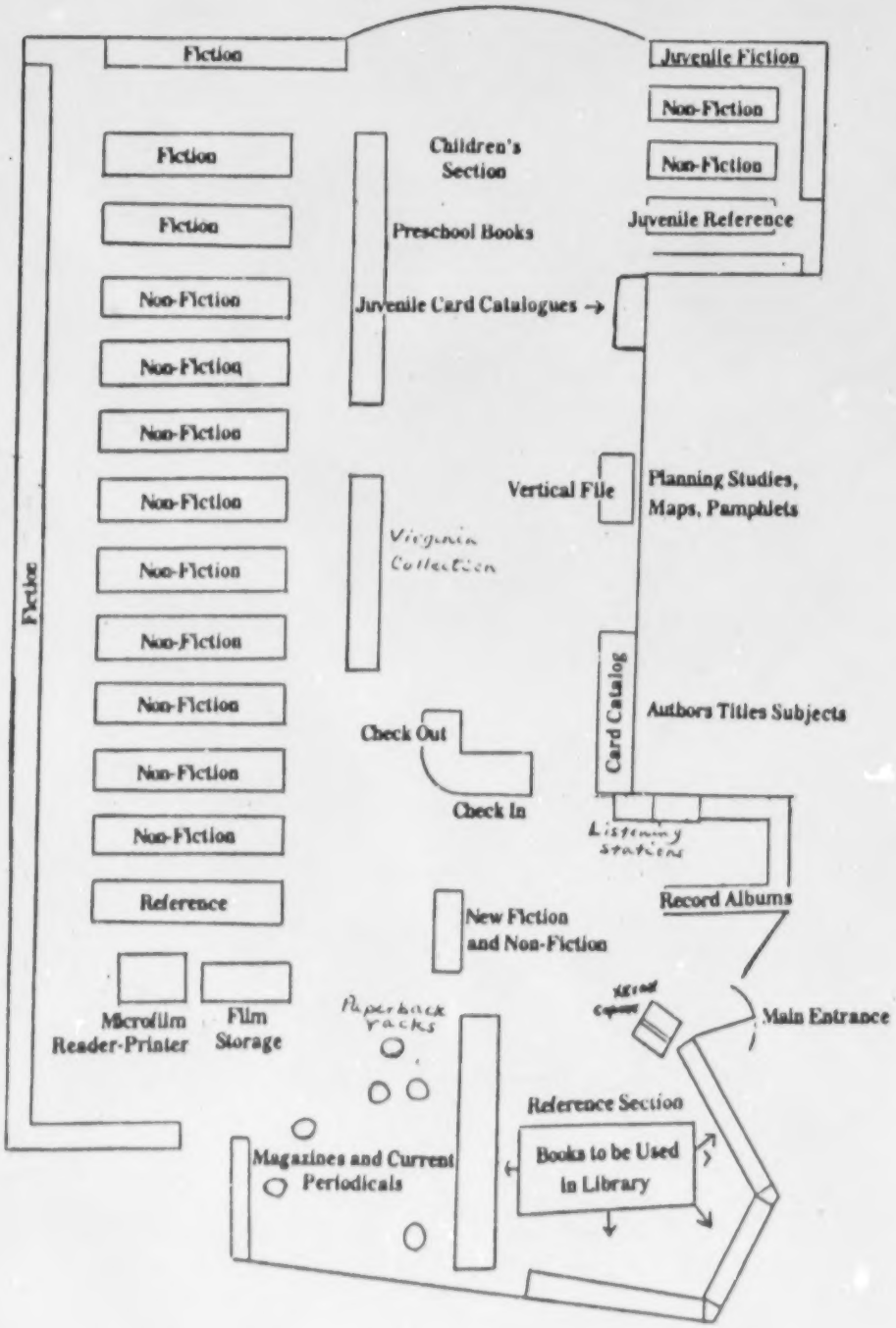
A section on the north wall has been partitioned to make an office to house the audiovisual equipment and office space for one employee.

Because of repeated break-ins in Martinsville a burglar alarm system was installed recently with a telephone line tie-in to the Martinsville Police Department.

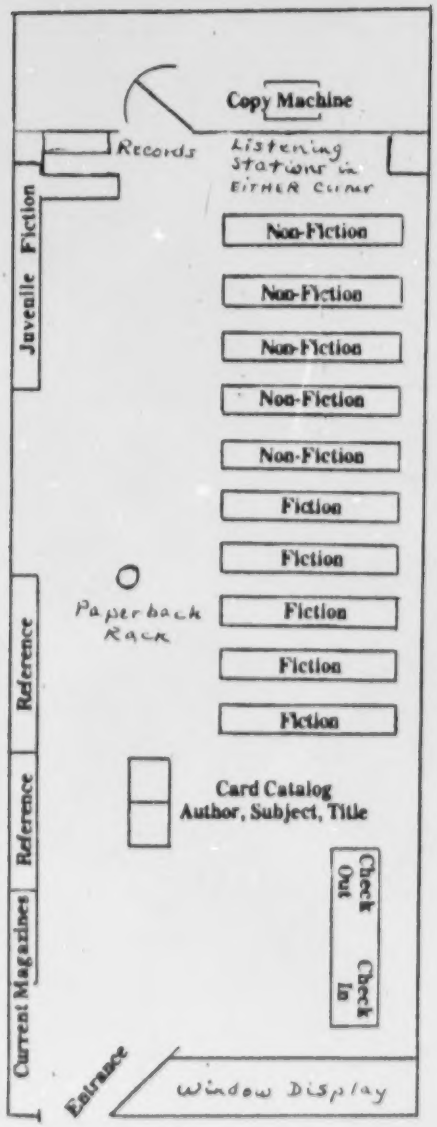
The original parking lot to the rear of the building had proved to be inadequate for a number of years. In 1977 a new parking lot was created on the east side of the building and connects with the old lot in the rear. Plans to have it paved in the near future are being finalized. The Martinsville Garden Club is planning to undertake the landscaping of the new parking area which will provide two dozen parking spaces for patrons, a space for the bookmobile, and a well landscaped reading area to the rear of the lot. An additional walkway to the library and a ramp for the handicapped connecting with the existing sidewalk will be built. The original planting of the shrubs and landscaping around the building was under the auspices of the Martinsville Council of Garden Clubs.

Because of the limited space in the headquarters building thousands of books from the collection will have to be stored in the basement of the new Henry County Administration Building which affords existing shelving, a clean, dry area, and security. Plans are underway to begin this operation immediately. Fiction that has not been circulated for five years and non-fiction, for three years, will be stored. Whenever requests for stored books are initiated, a courier from the library will be sent to retrieve the requested books. A list of storage books will be kept in the Circulation Department to facilitate patron and staff location of the titles.

The floor plans of the two buildings in the Blue Ridge Regional Library system which serve Henry County are shown on the following two pages.



Blue Ridge Regional Library Main



Collinsville Branch

PERSONNEL

The Blue Ridge Regional Library employs thirty people. Additionally, seven CETA workers are assigned to the system and application has been made for an eighth person. The permanent work force includes fifteen full-time employees. Five full-time professional librarians, two part-time professionals, eleven preprofessionals, seven high school pages, and one custodian staff the various positions.

HEADQUARTERS

*Director who is responsible for overall administration of the library and directly supervises all professional employees and four preprofessionals.

*Technical Services Librarian who coordinates the cataloging and processing functions for the entire system. Supervision includes overseeing the work of two adult assistants, one full-time, one part-time, one high school page, and one high school CETA employee.

*Reader Services Librarian who is in charge of the circulation and reference area and also performs some outreach responsibilities. This staff member has two full-time assistants, six high school pages, one high school CETA employee, and during the summer months one college student enrolled in "The Virginia Internship Program." This employee also supervises the evening work; one night is staffed by a part-time professional.

Acting Children's Services Librarian who is in charge of overseeing the children's book collection, coordinating and administering children's programs, and assisting children and parents in the selection of children's books and other media. This position should eventually be staffed by a professional librarian when funds and building space permit adequate quarters for improved children's services.

Library Assistant who is in charge of audiovisual programs and the leasing of audiovisual equipment to the public. Public relations is also in the purview of this employee as well as some circulation desk duties.

Bookmobile librarian who assists the bookmobile supervisor, drives the bookmobile, is responsible for clerical functions in relation to the bookmobile, assists with publicity, scheduling, and maintenance responsibility of the bookmobile.

Acquisitions Librarian who is responsible for reviewing books for consideration for purchase, searching the titles in the library holdings to avoid duplication, overseeing and ordering office supplies. This person supervises one high school CETA employee and one part-time adult. This position will be staffed by a professional during the summer of 1978, making a total of

PERSONNEL (Con't.)

six professionals in the system. At that time the preprofessional who is currently working as Acquisitions Librarian will have divided duties between the Acquisitions Department and the Circulation Department.

Senior Library Assistant who performs general office work, is responsible for the maintenance of the building and grounds, supervises the custodian, and also acts in the capacity of administrative assistant to the director.

Custodian who is responsible for cleaning the building, maintenance of the grounds, acts in the capacity of courier for various staff members, assists with maintenance of the bookmobile and library car.

Six high school pages who work part-time in either the areas of technical processing or circulation.

Five CETA employees are currently employed. Two work on special projects for the library director and three are high school students who work in acquisitions, cataloging, and circulation.

COLLINSVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY

*Branch and Extension Librarian who supervises the bookmobile and the administration of the Collinsville Branch Library.

Library Assistant (part-time) who assists with art displays, overdue notices, maintenance of the building, and assisting the public in the location of materials.

One high school page (part-time)

Application has been made for one part-time CETA worker.

PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY

*Branch Librarian responsible for administration and public relations of the branch library. Oversees two part-time employees and two full-time CETA employees.

PERSONNEL (Con't.)

Extension Services Librarian is currently staffed by a professional who performs outreach work in the local hospital and convalescent home and also serves the children of the area. A story and film program is conducted by this employee.

Library Assistant works on a part-time basis and performs circulation duties and clerical tasks.

Two CETA workers (full-time) supplement the staffing of the Circulation Department.

*professionally-MSLS-staffed

There is a personnel manual, a copy of which is given to each new employee. Continuing education of the staff is encouraged. Staff members regularly attend workshops and state and regional library meetings sponsored by the Virginia State Library and the Virginia Library Association as well as enroll in library instructional courses. Staff members are chosen for these programs by job description and personal interest.

SERVICES

The headquarters library is open seven days a week and provides a place where patrons may browse, read, listen to records, and check out books. There are two carrels with earphones for listening to records in the library.

Library Hours

Headquarters: open to the public 71 hours a week:

Monday - Thursday	8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday - Saturday	8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
*Sunday	1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*During the summer months the library is not open on Sunday.

Collinsville Branch Library: open to the public 31 hours a week:

Monday 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Thursday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday - Closed	Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Patrick County Branch Library: open 46 hours a week:

Monday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.	Friday 9.a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

ADULT SERVICES

With a continuing emphasis on courtesy, the circulation staff tries to make patrons feel welcome when they visit the library. Books are checked-in on one end of the circulation desk and charged-out by a Gaylord charger at the other end of the desk. Fines for overdue books are 5¢ a day per book, record, tape, etc. A courtesy reminder in the form of a phone call or postcard is made to the patron who has overdue material prior to sending an overdue notice. Books may be returned in the book depository when the library is not open. Any material checked out from any place in the system can be returned to any other place in the system.

The circulation desk is staffed by four adults and six pages. One of the adults is a professional librarian who supervises the circulation staff and is the reader services librarian. There is no charge for obtaining a registration card. Minors must have their parent's signature before a card is issued to them. Adults may register and receive their cards immediately upon establishing proper identification.

The reader services librarian assists patrons in locating materials and information in the library and from the Virginia State Library or other libraries both in and outside Virginia. In addition, reference questions are taken by phone or from patrons in the library. The public relations librarian has publicized the reference services in the local newspapers and on the radio.

Books are loaned from the 78,000 book collection covering a broad spectrum of non-fiction and fiction. Special collections include: The Virginia Collection composed of rare and books of local history and genealogy
Large print books for the visually handicapped
Recent college catalogs
Current telephone directories
High interest-low reading level collection for the reluctant reader (Juvenile and adult)

Also available are:
180 periodical titles
Approximately 4000 records, tapes, 200 films

Audiovisual equipment including movie projectors, a slide projector, record player, cassette player and recorders, and projection screens is rented to responsible patrons. Photocopying service is available at the main building and at each branch. A reader-printer is located at the headquarters building.

Senior citizens are exempt from overdue book fines. The library provides lists of books and aids in the selection of memorial gift books. This service is tax deductible for the donor.

YOUTH SERVICES

A weekly story time period is held in the headquarters library and at each of the branches. Storytime consists of a film, story reading, and other activities such as serving refreshments or singing, or working puzzles. The headquarters children's librarian also visits local day care centers with films and story programs; in turn, the day care centers bring their children to the main library for tours. This employee also visits MARC Workshop. School teachers are encouraged to bring classes in for library tours and to assist the classes in locating materials or with individual research. A number of classes from the county school system visit the headquarters library each year.

During the summer the staff holds a summer reading program at each of the libraries for grades one through seven. This program consists of crafts, films, stories, and a list of suggested books to check out for leisure reading. The headquarters library also provided children's services for one thousand eighty-three children from June of 1977 through May 20, 1978.

EXTENSION SERVICES

The library assistant who serves in the capacity of public relations librarian is a former radio announcer who has a library-sponsored five minute radio program each weekday morning. Many topics are discussed including poetry, word origins, authors, and book reviews. Also, some of Mark Twain's sketches have been read and special library features are covered such as a fine-free week and the bookmobile schedule. This employee has been responsible for several newspaper articles on the enlarged phonograph record collection and other services. In addition, the public relations specialist is in charge of displays in the main library; subjects of displays have included books of current interest, various types of crafts, and many hobbies. This librarian and another staff member review books for the local newspapers. Additionally, this employee conducts programs for organizations in the community and shows films at the senior citizens' nutrition sites and at convalescent homes several times each month.

The headquarters building supplies books on loan and as gifts to the social directors at convalescent homes for the use of the patients. The Patrick branch supplies these services to the elderly in Stuart where the staff from this branch have

EXTENSION SERVICES (Con't.)

also replaced casebound books with paperbacks on a book cart they maintain at the hospital; for interested patients, this service is offered once a week.

The reader services librarian provides a regular service of loans and gifts, and occasional films where possible, to the State Correctional Unit 28 at Horsepasture as well as the Martinsville City Farm and the Henry County Jail.

Books-by-mail may be offered to a small segment of a mountainous community in the near future.

A Great Books Discussion Group was in progress but had to be cancelled because there was no room in the library for the weekly meetings.

An air-conditioned bookmobile was purchased from the Gerstenslager Company in 1974. It contains a collection of two to three thousand books and records and is equipped with a specially mounted screen for showing film programs on the bookmobile. The bookmobile services the outlying regions of Henry and Patrick Counties on a two week schedule of forty stops. The bookmobile is supervised by a professional librarian and a bookmobile librarian and visits the State Correctional Unit 28 as well as residential areas in Henry and Patrick Counties.

As mentioned earlier in the report there are two branches:

Collinsville Branch Library with a book collection of 9,000.

Patrick County Branch Library with a book collection of 18,000, including an excellent genealogy collection donated by the Allied Families Society.

Each branch is staffed by a full-time MSLS professional librarian with assistants. (see section on PERSONNEL)

SERVICES (Con't.)

Technical Services

The Technical Services Department includes the acquisition and selecting of books and other media, and processing and cataloging of received items before they are entered into circulation. The staff will, by summer, 1978, consist of two full-time professional librarians, two full-time library assistants and a part-time library assistant.

Selection is made on the basis of reviews, popular demand, the needs of the community and replacement of outdated or discarded material. The library strives to achieve scope, coverage, and variety and attractiveness in the book collection. A variety of selection tools is used ranging from local publications, newspapers and magazines to standard bibliographies. The entire staff contributes to book selection.

To avoid duplication in ordering books, a large portion of time is spent in "searching" in six to eight files to ascertain if a title is in the collection. Restructuring procedures to eliminate so many files would save valuable time.

Selecting books that will help to facilitate the transition of society into the next century necessitates foresight as well as proper grounding in the commonsense and traditional approaches to reading material. The identification of trends in societal change requires thorough research and careful consideration in all book selection. Quite often, fads can be mistaken for genuine trends or as evidence of new directions, and careful study is required.

Most of the books are purchased from the Baker and Taylor Company which gives a 30-35% discount. Current titles are bought also from the Ingram Book Company at a 40% discount. Books from Baker and Taylor arrive fully processed with catalog kits and account for about 75% of the books purchased. Gifts of cassettes, large print books and reference books from the Virginia State Library as well as gifts from individuals contribute to the collection.

In processing the various materials for circulating to the public, the Technical Services Department makes a permanent record of what is in the library, and where it can be located. Materials handled include books, paperbacks, phonograph records, cassettes, tapes, films and kits (record/book combination or cassette/book combination). The main library does all such work for the system. It has complete records of what materials are in the headquarters library, Collinsville Branch, and Bookmobile, and is in the process of making complete records of what is in the Patrick County Branch.

SERVICES (Con't.)

Technical Services (Con't.)

(Materials at any of the libraries in the system are loaned to patrons of any library in the system). These nearly complete records make it possible to offer a much wider range of materials by avoiding needless duplication.

Among the steps in making materials ready to check-out are assigning classification numbers (so that books on roughly the same subjects can be kept together on the shelves which provides a great aid to browsing and so that there is a record of where the materials can be found). Other steps include encasing the books or records in protective covers, binding or rebinding books, putting the classification numbers on materials, and typing pockets and book cards.

The permanent records of what is in the library are done on 3" x 5" cards. The most basic record is the shelf list, a card file arranged the same way the materials are arranged on the shelves. It includes the accession record (a sequential numbering) of the materials, what the library paid for each item, the fund used to pay for it, and, sometime, where the item was obtained.

The other permanent records are the card catalogs. Through them it is possible to tell what authors, titles and subjects are in the library and exactly where they should be located on the shelves. There are separate author, title and subject catalogs.

The main library has separate catalogs for children's books, adult books and films, and records/cassettes. The Collinsville Branch has a combined children's/adult book catalog and a records catalog.

Experts at the Library of Congress (commonly referred to as "LC") prepare catalog cards for sale to the public. At least 95% of the books purchased by the Blue Ridge Regional Library are those for which LC cards have been prepared. These cards present a more consistent format and impart more quality information than most libraries could furnish. Like most libraries this library purchases LC cards whenever possible. In addition to having better cards, the library saves an enormous amount of typing time, and the even greater amount of time it would take to search out the information for the cards, and decide on classification numbers and subject headings for materials.

In addition to the 75% of the books that are obtained from a jobber with sets of cards computer-typed from Library of Congress cards, the library orders cards directly from the Library of Congress for approximately another 20% of the books.

SERVICES (Con't.)

Technical Services (Con't.)

Thus, about 95% of the books can be handled by trained clerks under the supervision of the Technical Services Librarian, a very obvious saving. The Technical Services Librarian catalogs the remaining 5% of the books, files the cards (as a simple means of supervising) and catalogs all the records. The Library of Congress catalogs a relatively small percentage of currently available records, and takes much longer to send cards for them than it does for books. The library has a balanced and wide-ranging record collection.

The Library of Congress publishes a list of the subject headings it uses, carefully cross-referenced. By using Library of Congress subject headings the library can be more consistent in its subject headings, and can use the Library of Congress list as its set of cross references - another great saving of time and work. The object of all this work which is sometimes very intricate and demanding is to give better, faster, and more economical service to the patrons.

Since processing for the entire system is executed at the headquarters building, the present workroom is overcrowded and the space is inadequate.

COLLECTION

Book Selection Policy

In book selection the library recognizes the obligation to all taxpayers of the community, the various interests represented, and the many levels of the library selection tools. Patron suggestions are welcomed and necessary. Certain considerations limiting acquisition are storage space, budget, existence of representative material on the same subject, and suitability of the format for small public library purposes. Textbooks are acquired if representing the best book or the only book available on a given subject. The library maintains an impartial recognition of conflicting points of view in controversial fields and all materials in such areas are carefully evaluated. Paperback titles are purchased if a title is unavailable in hardback form, if a title is of short lived popularity, to provide duplicate copies, and to appeal to certain readers who are oriented toward such format.

The American Library Association's minimum standards state that the aim of the public library is service to all the people. In order to implement this statement the Governing Board of the Blue Ridge Regional Library endorses the principles set forth in the American Library Association's Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement.

COLLECTION

BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Estimated Statistics for 1978:	(volumes)
Adult Fiction	17,500
Adult Non-fiction	38,000
Children's books	21,000
Paperbacks	5,500
Records	4,000
Films	201
Cassette tapes	200
Periodicals (titles) (263 subscriptions)	161
Newspapers (titles)	19
Microforms	530
Total adult books	57,000
Entire Collection	77,000 - 78,000

The Juvenile collection is 26% of the entire collection.

The Adult collection is 74% of the entire collection.

Adult fiction is 23% of the entire collection.

Adult non-fiction is 49% of the entire collection.

COLLECTION

Circulation

Circulation system-wide has increased substantially in Fiscal Year 1977-1978. At the headquarters building in Martinsville by April, 1977, county borrowers had checked-out 35,929 items for that fiscal year. A year later, by April 1978, in comparison, loans to county residents increased to 41,022 or 15% above the same time period of the preceding year. The branch at Collinsville loaned 16,158 items by April of 1977, while the circulation numbered 21,120 by April,1978, an increase of 30%.

The bookmobile's increase has not been as high (2.6%), but dilligent work has raised the number of loans; by April, 1977, loans numbered 11,213 and in April 1978, they were 11,516. Schedules for the bookmobile have been changed and other alterations have been made; experimentation continues in the interest of better service.

Figures through April have been used for comparison because of the early date of this report. We have every reason to believe that the circulation for May and June will be heavy, and we will finish 1977-1978 with a large increase in total circulation.

TELEPHONE CALLS RECEIVED BY CIRCULATION

IN ORDER OF FREQUENCY

Library hours
Reserving books
Inquiries about audiovisual equipment and Xerox copier
Spelling and definition of words
Information on time zones and weather conditions in foreign countries
Amount of fines per day
Location by county of U.S. cities and towns
Business addresses of companies

COLLECTION (Con't.)

Reading interests of the patrons of the Blue Ridge Regional Library follow those of libraries in general. Most popular are the best sellers and books that have been aired on television on one of the talk shows or adapted for a movie or play. Often the revival of a book by a particular author will spark an interest in other books written by that person. Women prefer the gothics, mysteries and romances with current biographies running a close second. Men check out many of the home repair and automotive repair manuals, books on the Civil War, the World Wars, Guinness Book of World Records, mysteries, westerns, and books pertaining to their particular businesses.

Both sexes seem to enjoy the self-help books, sex manuals, gardening and hobby books, exercise and diet books, yoga manuals, and family and child care compilations. Also popular are the sewing, needlework, craft books and cookbooks for women. Travel books are popular in the summer months.

Young people use the library for obtaining books on their required reading lists and for research projects. For leisure reading they seem to enjoy the science fiction titles, romances, books about sexuality, the occult (astrology, biorhythms, yoga, and meditation), personal, self-improvement health books and picture biographies of current media stars. Topics for term papers include abortion, hypnosis, sleep, current events of an historical, sociological or political nature, such as Watergate, the Panama Canal, child abuse, witchcraft, art history, psychic phenomena, the history of comics, and the plagues through history.

The young people are interested in books about monsters, UFO's, and recently, cloning and the DNA controversy with gene manipulation.

Practice test manuals for the Armed Forces and civil service jobs are also in demand. Books on drugs and job hunting (how to write resumés) circulate well. Increased interest has been manifested in books on genealogy, family and local history.

BUDGET

Growth of the Blue Ridge Regional Library system catapulted with the acceptance of Henry County into the system by the City of Martinsville. Nowhere is this fact more apparent than in an examination of the operating budgets during the formative years of the system. Although further expansion with the inclusion of Patrick County was considerable, the statistics changed not nearly so dramatically as with the advent of Henry County into full-fledged library service.

The total operating expenses in fiscal year 1972-1972 prior to extension of services was $90,932.00. In fiscal year 1973-1974 with bookmobile service in operation less than four months of the year, the budget had already more than doubled. With the continued expenditures of the federal establishment grant and Henry County's additional $25,000.00 for the extension of service, the budgetary expenses swelled even further in fiscal year 1974-1975 to $243,980.00, representing an increase of $153,048.00 since 1973.

Fiscal year 1976 swelled with the addition of Patrick County's additional appropriation and the increased state and federal funding acquired with the new jurisdiction's joining the system. Expenditures in fiscal year 1976-1977 also reflect the addition of the two counties through total expenditures of $313,719.00. Comparisons with 1972 indicated that the budget that year was only 29% of the 1977 figure. By fiscal year 1978 the available funding had increased still f rther, by at least $5,000.00. By this time, however, it has become increasingly apparent that the revenues available to the library have not kept pace with the inflationary trends. Fewer books and other materials are being purchased for the same amount of funding, and this situation is being repeated throughout the operating budget in category after category.

Funding from Henry County has not kept pace with the funding from the City of Martinsville, creating administrative problems. Initially, Henry County's appropriation was equal to that of the City, but in fiscal year 1977-1978, a disparity occurred with Henry County granted an increment of 4% in the operating expenses and Martinsville granted 5%. If this trend continues, Henry County citizens will receive less library service than the citizens of Martinsville through fewer books and other media being purchased for the branch library, fewer bookmobile stops and fewer new books for the bookmobile, and the inability to extend the hours of the Collinsville Branch Library when Henry County citizens are already urging the extension of those hours. The per capita expenditure from Henry County for library service in fiscal 1977-1978 is $2.32.

BUDGET (Con't.)

Large expenditures in the past for materials and not repeated in future years such as microform expenditures in 1974 reflect the library's purchase of periodicals on microfilm, both currently and retrospectively, and the smaller budgets in succeeding years reflect maintenance of the periodical microfilm collection with no major additions. The large equipment expenditures in 1973 and 1975 reflect the purchase of the bookmobile, a library car, carpeting, and shelving. Capital improvements further included the aforementioned physical changes in the headquarters library building as well as the establishment of the Collinsville Branch Library.

Fiscal 1977 expenditures reflect improvements in the Patrick County Branch Library rather than facilities serving Henry County: however, improvements continue in all facilities as finances permit. The situation at present is far from stagnant.

BUDGET, cont.

FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Books.....	$17,438*	$46,991	$38,476	$44,705	54,798
Cataloging-Processing.		(a)	(a)	5,062	2,540
Binding.....		(b)	(b)	918	1,006
Audiovisual Materials		68	570	3,450	4,503
Microforms....		3,816	502	811	442
Recordings....		974	602	3,864	3,553
Periodicals...		3,153	5,298	7,436	10,139
Salaries (c)..	$51,594	80,015	127,639	165,463	174,618
Equipment.....	8,097	33,585	38,925	6,250	14,304
Contractual Services	2,785	4,113	15,729	3,941	6,304
All other expenses	$11,018	22,429	$16,239	$36,293	$41,512
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	$90,932	$195,144	$243,980	$378,193	$313,719

*Included all purchases of materials: books, cataloging, binding, audiovisual, microforms, recordings, periodicals, etc.

(a) Included under "all other expenses"
(b) Included in book expenditures
(c) Includes employer's cost of fringe benefits

STANDARDS AND SHORTCOMINGS

Any discussion of attempts to meet state standards in most aspects must begin and end with the limitations of the present headquarters building. If the budget permitted the library administration to purchase all the materials necessary to meet the recommended minimum standards, hire all the personnel, and develop all the programs necessary to afford the highest possible quality of library service, it would still be totally impossible to achieve these goals because the present headquarters facility is entirely too small and functioning at the optimum of operation. The necessity of storing part of the book collection, of staggering staff hours in order that a number of people can use the same desk and typewriter, of turning down requests for meetings at the library, of employees having to vacate offices so that children can sit on the office floors to view film programs are just a few of the many indications that the present building is straining at the seams, that the staff is taxed to meet the current minimum needs of the public, and that constant improvisation is necessary to overcome the shortcomings of an inadequate building.

Built in 1962 to serve the citizens of Martinsville, the total estimated population with which the library needed to be concerned was 20,000 people. Today the library serves a vastly extended population of 86,482 from the same headquarters. The building was designed in such a manner that a second floor could not be added. Structually, it would be an impossibility. Even expanding the present facility into the adjacent parking lot would not afford enough building space and then the newly acquired parking spaces would be lost, leaving the library with only fifteen spaces for patrons and staff.

Many aspects of the problem have been examined, and the only solution appears to be to relocate the present headquarters of the library system in a facility large enough to accommodate the needs of the present population as well as offering enough space for projected population needs for some time to come. Recognizing such a need and the ensuing problems in obtaining a building containing at least 35,000 square feet, the Governing Board of the library discussed the matter and a committee evolved over a year ago which was later expanded into a bonafide Building Committee whose membership consisted of representatives from each local jurisdiction, the West Piedmont Planning District Commission, the presently inactive Friends of the Library organization, and members of the original Governing Board committee. All Henry County members on the Governing Board are members of this committee.

STANDARDS (Con't.)

At the present time the public service staff is less than one-half the number of people recommended. In the Technical Services division the same is also true. The administrative end also fails to measure up to the recommended number of employees. Having less than one book per capita when the standards call for 2.5 books per capita for a library serving between 50,000 and 100,000 people would necessitate more than doubling the present book collection, a physical impossibility even if the funds were available. The number of periodicals is inadequate, as is the phonograph record collection.

One doesn't have to consult standards to discover the total absence of study carrells and small number of seats in all sections of the public area--general reading, reference and periodical sections.

The one area in which the library falls somewhat short that is unrelated to the inadequate building is in the category of staff salaries. The comparison as reported in a recent Library Journal of the median salary for beginning professional librarians in the southeastern states indicated that the Blue Ridge Regional Library is approximately $800.00 below the median. Since the educational requirements for professional librarians is similar to that of teachers with Master's Degrees, the area salaries should be compatible. The public library is not up to par with the local school systems salary-wise. This is also true on a comparative basis with other library employees whose four year college educations are not reaping an equivalent salary with their counterparts in area schools and agencies.

The Building Committee is concerned with many considerations. Since, population-wise, Henry County is the largest jurisdiction served by the library, in time the heaviest use will doubtless come from this jurisdiction although use at the present time is almost evenly divided between the two larger jurisdictions of Henry County and Martinsville. Among the determinations with which the committee will have to concern itself are: if a new building is constructed, where the location should be; if that occurs, the feasibility of retaining the present building as a city branch; remodeling an older building if one were available; incorporating the Collinsville facility into a headquarters building if one were to be located in that area of the county; relocating in Martinsville and expanding the Collinsville facility which will soon prove to be inadequate; establishing a small library or deposit collection in the southern section of the county.

There was no reason to incorporate determining the need for a library building among the objectives of this study; that much had

been all too obvious for a long time. Although the latest "Recommended Minimum Standards" of the Virginia State Library were approved by the State Library Board in January of 1978, the American Library Association's Small Libraries Project, published in 1967, offered similar building guidelines for determining minimum space requirements. Reference to the latter report also indicates the needed spatial requirements in every department of headquarters library service.

BOOK COLLECTION

One of the most important segments of our survey is the sampling of the library's holdings. Evaluation of this sample as to percentages of fiction and non-fiction as well as the age and quality of materials will help us to determine whether we are equipped to serve the community properly.

Guidelines as to proper proportions are available at both state and federal levels but care must be exercised that requirements unique to a given community are taken into consideration. Balance of collection must be secondary to fulfilling specific needs as they are found to exist and a major purpose of the survey is to make a determination regarding our particular area of service. Any attempt to attract the non-user to the library must begin with conclusions drawn from this survey.

The phonograph record collection was not surveyed at this time. Numbering approximately 4,000 records for the entire system, the collection has been acquired relatively recently. Most of the discs have been purchased within the last eight years and currently available recordings of older works were bought in addition to purchasing contemporary music with emphasis on rock, country, and gospel. The record collection is extremely popular with all age groups in all library outlets. Cassettes are being acquired also and all indications are that this medium will prove to be equally popular.

One of the most significant factors in assessing the collection is its currency. While a number of older works are desirable in a public library collection, non-fiction in particular must be reasonably current in many areas to be of any real value. As depicted in our sample it was revealed that 19,516 non-fiction adult titles out of 23,562 were published in the 1960's or later with 10,829 being published in the 1970's. Adult fiction indicated that 8,449 books out of 10,819 were published since 1960. These statistics represent in non-fiction 56% of the entire collection and in fiction, 24% of the adult collection, making a combined total of 80%.

In juvenile books 9,758 out of a total juvenile collection of 13,109 indicate that 73% of the juvenile collection was published in the 1960's and 1970's. The combined statistics for adult and juvenile reveal a grand total of 79% of the total collection being published in the period since 1960, with 41% published in the 1970's.

BOOK COLLECTION, cont.

The age of a collection is one of the basic indicators in judging its quality especially with the rapid technolocical changes in our society that occur almost daily and the changes in emphasis on presentation of material. Books have been coming into competition with other media forms and this challenge must be met with the constant up-dating of collections. Nowhere is the term "relevancy" more necessary than in the book collection of a public library. A book is only relevant if someone wishes to use it, and circulation data indicate that the collection of the Blue Ridge Regional Library meets this criterion with 76% of the total titles circulated within the last three and one-half years.

To obtain our sample we first measured in centimeters our entire shelf list at the headquarters library. The shelf list at the Collinsville Branch was not used because of the relatively small size of that collection. Since most of it duplicates the headquarters collection we considered the main collection to be more representative for the purposes of our survey. Total measurement of the main shelf list was found to be 1262.3 centimeters. We then divided this figure by 400, our pre-determined card total and found the card interval to be 3.3 cm. Each block of 3.3 cm. contained 119 cards which gave us our interval between sample cards. When we had pulled 400 cards, our next step was to locate each book and note the year it was added to the collection and the month and year of last check-out from the library. In this way we were able to determine both age of collection and which books in each category were circulating. This sampling method when applied as scientifically as possible is considered to be quite accurate with a small percentage of error.

AGE OF BOOKS BY PUBLICATION YEARS*

ADULT	1970's	1960's	1950's	1940's	1930's	1920's & earlier	Total by Category	% of entire coll.	Total Books
Fiction	41	30	7	5	6	2	91	23%	10,829
Non-fiction	91	73	22	6	5	1	198	50%	23,562
Total Adult	132	103	29	11	11	3	289	73%	34,391
JUVENILE									
Easy (incl. pictures)	9	9	6	1	0	0	25	6%	2,975
Fiction	9	12	7	4	0	2	34	8%	4,046
Non-fiction	14	29	7	1	0	1	52	13%	6,188
Total Juvinile	32	50	20	6	0	3	111	27%	13,209
GRAND TOTAL	164	153	49	17	11	6	400	100%	
% OF COLLECTION	41%	38%	12%	4%	3%	2%	100%		
TOTAL # BOOKS IN COLL.	19,516	18,207	5,831	2,023	1,309	714	47,600		

*Based on sample size of 400 titles

CIRCULATION STUDY

In checking latest circulation for our collection we found that 302 books of our sample of 400, representing an actual figure of 35,938 books, were checked out between 1975 and 1978 while an additional 13 books, representing 1,547 books, or 3% of the total collection had been checked out between 1970 and 1974.

Books never circulated number 16, sample-wise, representing 1,904 or 4% of total, a very small percentage. We presently have no method for assessing use of reference works which do not circulate, other than reports from the reference department of the library. The reference section of our sample numbered 13 books representing 1428 books or 3% of the collection.

Those books discovered to be missing and unaccounted for, 56 books of sample, representing 6,664 or 14% of the total collection indicate a complete library inventory may be necessary in order to update and make more accurate the contents of the shelf list.

More than any other indicator, circulation of a collection is the most positive proof of its value. Therefore, it is extremely important to determine what type of book has the most appeal to the majority of patrons. Pitfalls in assessment must be avoided, however. If it is obvious that far more fiction than non-fiction is being circulated, it may be an indication that non-fiction has not been kept up to date and, therefore, useful. The reverse is also true since some patrons seek out only the newest fiction when they come to the library. One of the major values of our present survey is to provide data by which we may reasonably adjudge the balance of our collection in regard to its universal appeal to our community.

In checking circulation by classification of books we found that 82 fiction books of our sample of 400 representing 9,758 books or 21% had circulated in the past three years while in the non-fiction category 129 books representing 15,351 books of the total or 33% had been circulated during the same period. In the juvenile portion of the collection non-fiction accounted for 41 books representing 4,879 books or 10% of the sample checked out during the last three years. While the fiction category was almost evenly divided with 29 books representing 3,451 books or 7% of the sample in

juvenile fiction; and 21 books representing 2,499 books of the total collection and 5% of the sample were in the "easy" or pre-school book category. Only a small portion, in any category of our sample had failed to circulate in the last three years which fact we take to be a good indication of our collection's appeal.

SUMMARY

In summary, the headquarters collection appears to be circulating well and adding this to the continually increasing circulation figures it is probably safe to assume that the collection is a reasonably good one. Some weeding may be indicated and perhaps a re-assessment of our fiction category to be certain of the quality of our titles. Other indicators from various portions of our survey will necessarily play an important part in determining future directions we may take with respect to continuing improvement of our collection.

LATEST CIRCULATION

	Books Checked Out 1975-1978	1970-1974	1969	Bks never circulated	Reference cannot be circulated	Missing--unaccounted for	TOTAL
Sample size	302	13	1	16	12	56	400
Titles in collection	35,938	1,547	119	1,904	1,428	6,664	47,600
% of entire collection	76%	3%	-1%	4%	3%	14%	100%

CIRCULATION BY CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS

Latest Circulation	ADULT Fiction sample size	%	Bks.	ADULT Non-fiction sample size	%	Bks.	JUVENILE Easy(inc. picture) sample size	%	Bks.	JUVENILE Fiction sample size	%	Bks.	JUVENILE Non-fiction sample size	%	Bks.
1975-1978	82	21	9,758	129	33	15,351	21	5	2,499	29	7	3,451	41	10	4,879
1970-1974	2	-1	238	9	2	1,071	0	0	0	1	-1	119	1	-1	119
1969	0	0	0	1	-1	119	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never circulates	0	0	0	9	2	1,071	0	0	0	1	-1	119	6	2	714
Reference	0	0	0	12	3	1,428	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing	7	2	833	38	10	4,522	4	1	476	3	1	357	4	1	476
TOTAL	91	23%	10,829	198	50%	23,562	25	6%	2,975	34	8%	4,046	52	13%	6,188

BORROWERS REGISTRATION STUDY

The Borrowers Registration file was analyzed to determine what percentage of our borrowers are from each magisterial district in Henry County, what percentage of these borrowers are under 18 years or 18 years and over, and what the occupational characteristics of the borrowers are.

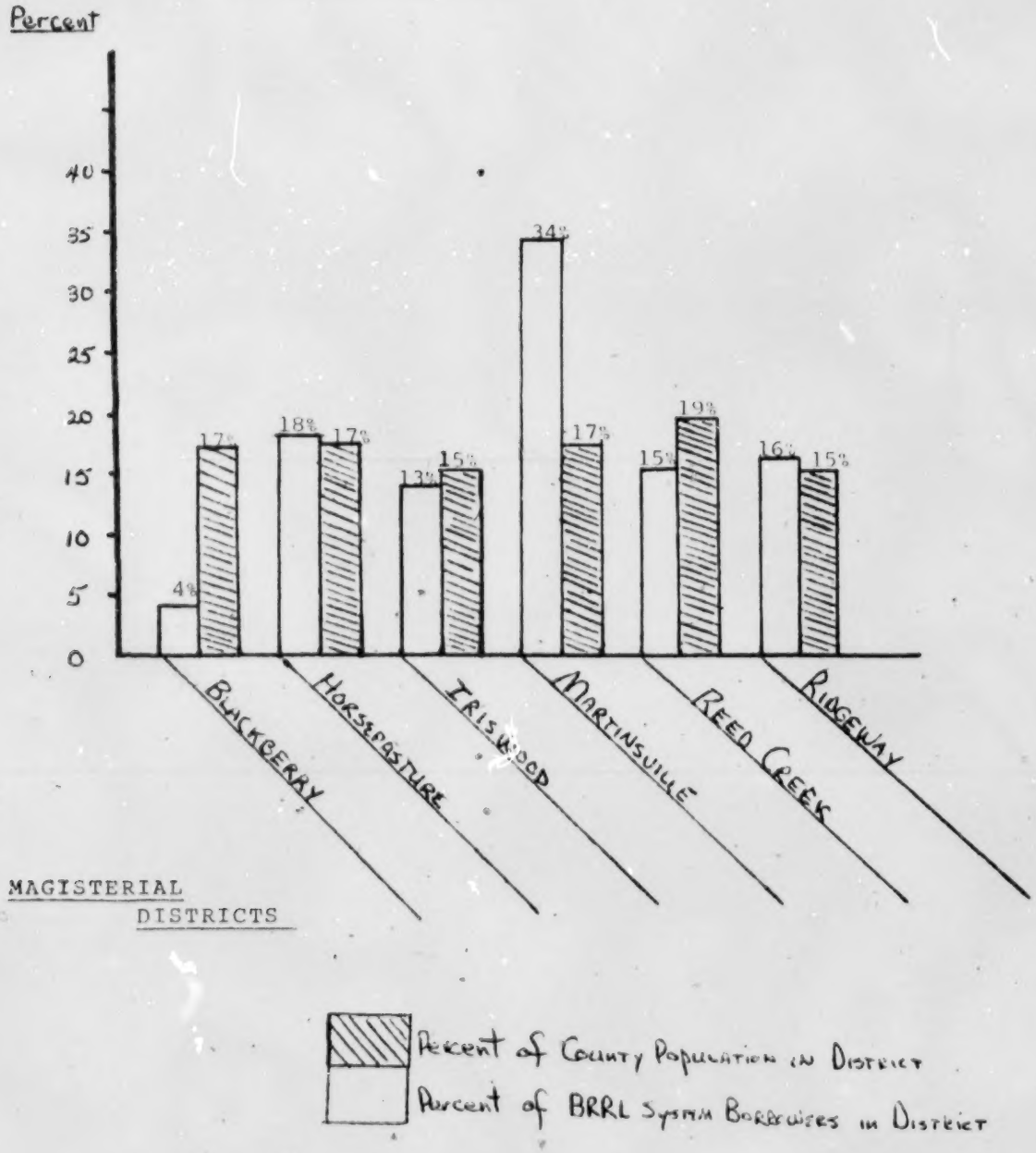
The study was done in the same manner as the shelf list study with a sample of 400 cards pulled from the main library, bookmobile, and Collinsville Branch borrowers files from Henry County. The cards were searched for names, addresses, occupations, and ages. The address of each registrant in the sample was plotted on maps of the county magisterial districts with the aid of rural route information from the area post offices.

The following table is an array of the number and percent of registered borrowers from each magisterial district in each of the three files (main library, bookmobile, and Collinsville Branch) and in the total Blue Ridge Regional Library system.

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF REGISTRATION SAMPLE

Magisterial District	Main		Bookmobile		Collinsville		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Blackberry	5	2%	8	13%	6	5%	19	4%
Horsepasture	41	18%	14	24%	17	14%	72	18%
Iriswood	39	18%	11	18%	2	2%	52	13%
Martinsville	61	28%	6	10%	68	57%	135	34%
Reed Creek	24	11%	8	13%	27	22%	59	15%
Ridgeway	50	23%	13	22%	0	0	63	16%
TOTAL	220	100%	60	100%	120	100%	400	100%

BORROWERS AND POPULATION COMPARISON



REGISTRATION STUDY (Con't.)

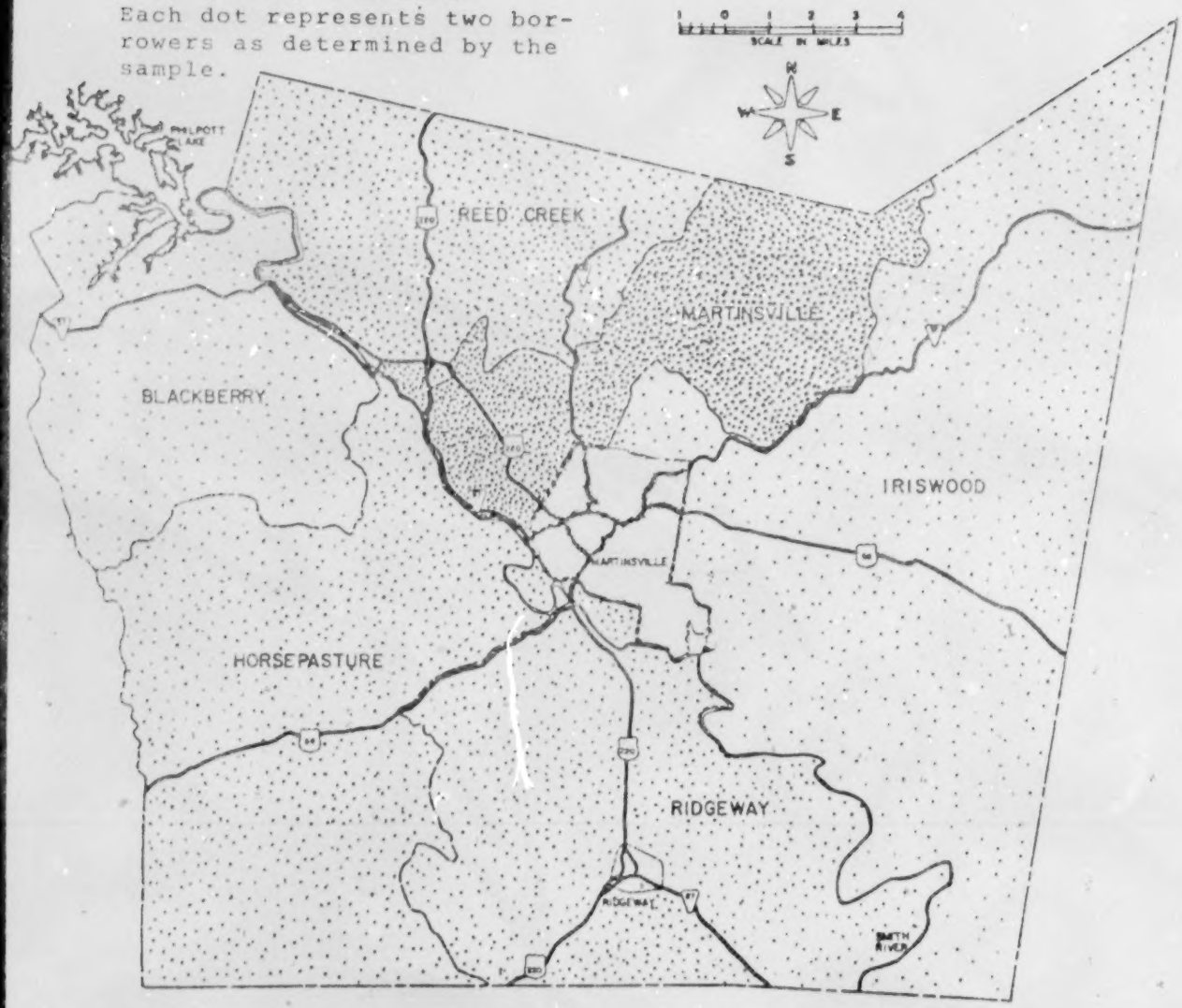
As can be seen in the preceding graph, the results of the study indicate that the largest percentage of the total number of registered borrowers in Henry County come from the Martinsville District (34%). The Horsepasture District has the next largest proportion with 18%. The Reed Creek and the Ridgeway Districts have 16% and 15% respectively. The fewest number of borrowers come from the Iriswood District, with 13%, and the Blackberry District, with 4%. The largest pocket of unserved population represented here is in the Blackberry District with 17% of the county population and only 4% of the borrowers. The greatest concentration of borrowers is in the Martinsville District where the Collinsville Branch Library is located. Thirty-four percent of the borrowers reside in this district which has only 17% of the County population. Otherwise, for the other four districts, the study would indicate that library card holders are distributed fairly evenly with population.

TOTAL LIBRARY REGISTRATION COMPARED WITH TOTAL POPULATION FOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

Magisterial District	# in Sample	% in Sample	Estimated # regist.	Estimated Dist. pop.	% pop. regist.
Blackberry	19	4%	418	9785	4%
Horsepasture	72	18%	1584	9787	16%
Iriswood	52	13%	1144	8634	13%
Martinsville	135	34%	2970	9785	30%
Reed Creek	59	15%	1298	10936	12%
Ridgeway	63	16%	1386	8634	16%

Borrowers Registration

Each dot represents two borrowers as determined by the sample.



REGISTRATION STUDY (Con't.)

The age of borrower is recorded on the registration card in one of two broad categories: Adult, or 18 years and over, and Student, or under 18 years of age. As the following table indicates, 207 borrowers or 51.75% of the sample were under 18 years of age. The remaining portion, of 193, or 48.25%, were Adults, 18 years and over. The percentages for the entir population of Henry County based on 1970 Census Data are 37.5% for persons under 18 years, and 62.5% for persons 18 years and over. However, the more recent projections of population compiled by the Research Triangle Institute in Raleigh, N.C., show a slightly different picture. Based on their estimate of a total County population of 57,561 as of July 1, 1978, there would be 33.1% of the population 19 years and under, while 66.9% of the population would be over 19 years of age.

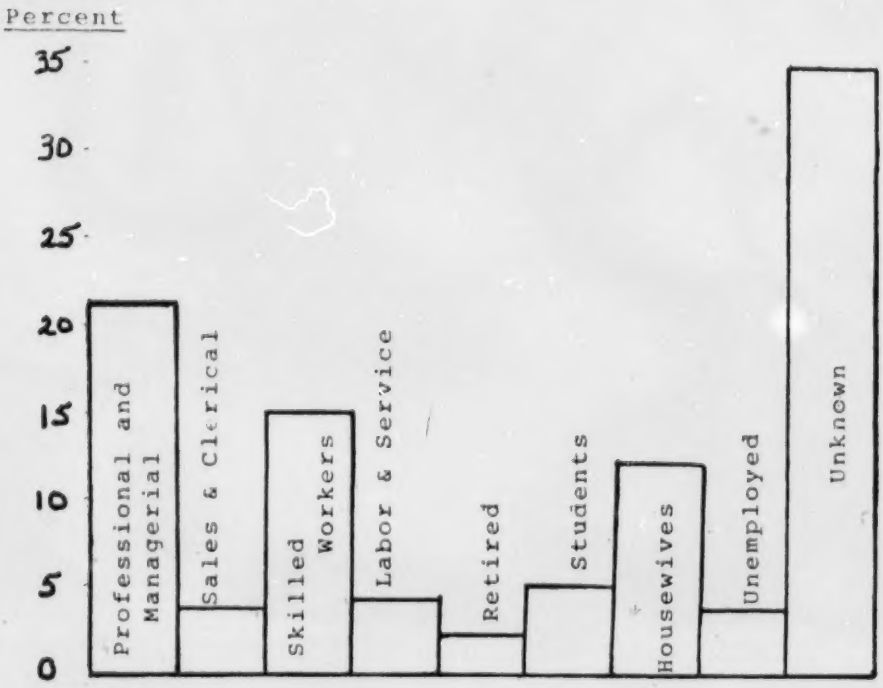
AGE OF USER
IN BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM, 1978

AGE	NUMBER IN SAMPLE			Total # regist.	% of sample	Est.# regist.
	M'ville	Bkmobile	C'ville			
Under 18	95	40	72	207	51.75%	4554
18 and over	125	20	48	193	48.25%	4246

RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE AGE PROJECTION
FOR HENRY COUNTY, JULY 1, 1978

AGE	POPULATION
0-4 years	3,970
5-9 years	4,570
10-14 years	5,190
15-19 years	5,306
TOTAL	19,036 (33.1%)
Over 19 years	38,525 (66.9%)
GRAND TOTAL	57,561

OCCUPATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ADULTS IN REGISTRATION SAMPLE



OCCUPATION	%	Numbers
Professional & Managerial	21%	40
Sales & Clerical	3%	7
Skilled Workers	15%	29
Labor & Service	4%	8
Retired	2%	4
Students	5%	10
Housewives	12%	23
Unemployed	3%	5
Unknown	35%	67
	100%	193

REGISTRATION STUDY (Con't.)

The preceding graph shows the occupational breakdown of the adult borrower's registration sample. The highest percentage of occupations is unknown, with the next largest being in the category of Professional and Managerial. The next two significant percentages are the Skilled Workers and Housewives. The remaining categories - Sales and Clerical, Labor and Service, Retired, Students, and Unemployed are 5% of the total or less.

conclusions and recommendations

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although this report has made use of a considerable number of statistics and information, use of the 1970 census data does not afford as current a picture of county data as desirable, but projections by private institutes are not as all-encompassing as the U.S. Bureau of the Census statistics. For the sake of uniformity and consistency we were cautioned at the outset of the study that we would be well advised to use the federal data. Only our library-generated statistics are completely current.

Much useful information has evolved from the analysis. Particularly gratifying was the enthusiasm shown by many of the groups for our efforts. However, in spite of publicity, groups' responses indicated that many of their members are unaware of the library's services; some respondents listed services which are now offered as being services which they wish the library would offer. Therefore, the library should place more emphasis on public relations with organizations in the community. These groups have large memberships and offering display space is a good way to forge the public relations link. Occasional mailings reminding various organizations of forthcoming publications and other media of particular interest to their membership might prove helpful.

The plight of many senior citizens was revealed with some districts indicating high incidents of poverty and uniformly low educational achievements. These statistics are yardsticks by which one can expect commensurate library use. Fortunately, the educational attainments are increasing, and stemming the outmigration of young people from the county would, in time, provide a larger percent of better educated older citizens. As larger segments of the population attain higher educational levels, library awareness and use should rise accordingly. In the meantime, the use of media with special appeal for senior citizens such as cassettes, to supplement the large print books, should be supplied; films that are shown should have particular interest for the age group, and programs with speakers from the library should be used more frequently as this feature has proven to be quite popular.

According to The Library's Public children use the public library in greater proportion than do others. This 1949 work still contains valid findings that hold true today. This is certainly the case in the Blue Ridge Regional Library headquarters building although our statistics indicate only 3.5% more registered juvenile borrowers than adult. If the Henry County youth could actually get to the headquarters facility,

library statistics would increase measurably as indicated by the juvenile majority of users on the bookmobile and in Collinsville. Since the juvenile collection does not emphasize curriculum supportive material because all area schools have libraries for this purpose, it is reasonable to assume that much reading for pleasure ensues, particularly in the elementary years. The library's juvenile collection is heavily used in spite of the fact that the percent of available materials falls far short of the percent of registered juvenile borrowers. This is a situation which can only be remedied with a larger building and funds to supplement the collection.

The largely scattered population of the county has proved to be a detriment to library service. In some areas of the county, however, centers of population seem to be forming, a significant factor from the standpoint of library service. In the Laurel Park area, as was noted in the ride around portion of this survey, more housing is being built in the area of the high school and this appears likely to continue to some degree. The Ridgeway District has undergone a complete change in housing patterns in the years subsequent to the building of Drewry Mason High School and since a new consolidated school will be built in that area, this seems almost certain to continue, resulting in even larger concentrations of population. In the Horsepasture District new developments such as Greenbriar Park, Carver Estates, and Preston Gardens have been built in recent years, and the new by-pass will affect the area considerably. The Fieldale community, in the same district, also is growing and the by-pass will be a factor there as well as new industrial expansion. These trends toward more centralized population centers will enable us more easily to determine the feasibility of increased bookmobile service and keeping the bookmobile on station for longer periods of time and the establishment of deposit collections or branch libraries.

Continual reassessment of acquisitions policy will be necessary if the library is to achieve a balance in its collection more consistent with what this survey has shown about library users and non-users. The educational background of the population must be considered and also the library's responsibility as a major part of the continuing education process. Even those not enrolled in formal academic endeavor continue to broaden their knowledge by using the library and this role must be emphasized not only in public relations but in future planning.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Con't.)

Both the adult and juvenile collections should be carefully assessed as to age, quality, and condition since all three factors have a direct bearing on the user's acceptance. Some copies of older fictional works should perhaps be replaced because of condition and an attempt made to acquire a wider collection of established titles in addition to the newer best sellers. In attracting the non-user to the library fictional books may be one of the library's best attractions as well as cassettes offering the better fictional works. This possibility must be a factor in the formulation of a revised acquisitions policy. With such a high percent of the population engaged in the manufacturing industry, the practical books including the how-to books on every imaginable subject are also an extremely useful part of the educational process. Care must be taken to keep this segment of the collection as complete and up to date as possible.

Data gathering began eight months ago for this study. One of the surprises was in learning that, although the county is quite rural, farming is almost a thing of the past. The rural non-farm pattern is very strong. With unemployment low and many workers living in rural environs, keeping the Collinsville Branch Library open longer hours and more night hours would appear to be a reasonable way to meet the needs of the working population. The centralized headquarters library cannot adequately serve Henry County from its Martinsville location, and Collinsville's limited hours and too small facility cannot adequately serve a population the size of the Martinsville District and surrounding areas. The Collinsville Library has only 1,500 square feet of floor space. The collection is good and the interior of the building is attractive but there are only twelve seats for patrons.

The large percentage of people in the Martinsville District now using the library and the growing registrations from this district as well as from the Reed Creek, Horsepasture, and Ridgeway Districts indicate that a significant increase in borrowers registration would occur if a large building offering full services were available.

The Blackberry and Iriswood Districts present the most challenge in offering library service. Both districts have populations farthest away from the library. We were aware of the problems of lack of library use in these vicinities--the bookmobile's lower than anticipated circulation already had told the story. The incidence of high employment in Henry County also indicates that people are frequently not at home during the day to avail themselves of bookmobile service. This

service is the most successful in the summer when young people are out of school. Young people in Henry County use the Collinsville Branch and the bookmobile more; adults, the headquarters library more often.

The Horsepasture District emerged as equal to the Ridgeway District in library use, and this information was new to the library staff. In 1970 Horsepasture had the largest number of school age population in college of any of the districts. For some time the bookmobile had reported a good business in the Ridgeway District, and at some point in the future it had seemed logical to expect to offer that area more than the small bookmobile collection. Now it appears that the Horsepasture District will have to be considered also for extended library service.

With the working population frequently unable to adhere to the bookmobile's schedule, there is no substitute for having an adequate building in reasonable proximity to the community rather than having people travel into another jurisdiction entirely. If a new headquarters building were to be located in Henry County, primary consideration must be given to the large block of registered borrowers in the Martinsville District. Their previous support brought about the opening of the Collinsville Branch Library. Henry County is large in area, and its many citizens have to do business at the Kings Mountain Road complex in Collinsville as well as in the City of Martinsville. With a population that is improving educationally, though not education-oriented in the past, it is simply a case of the library going to the people in order for the people to begin coming to the library.

It is recommended, therefore, that the Building Committee, in focusing on improved library service to Henry County, proceed as quickly as possible in selecting and obtaining a building site, securing sources of funding, and implementing the building program. It is further recommended that Henry County's level of funding for the library, now representing only .5% of the total county budget, be increased initially to at least parallel the library funding by the City of Martinsville and increased in future increments to a higher level of per capita support in order to afford the best possible level of library service to all Henry County citizens.

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